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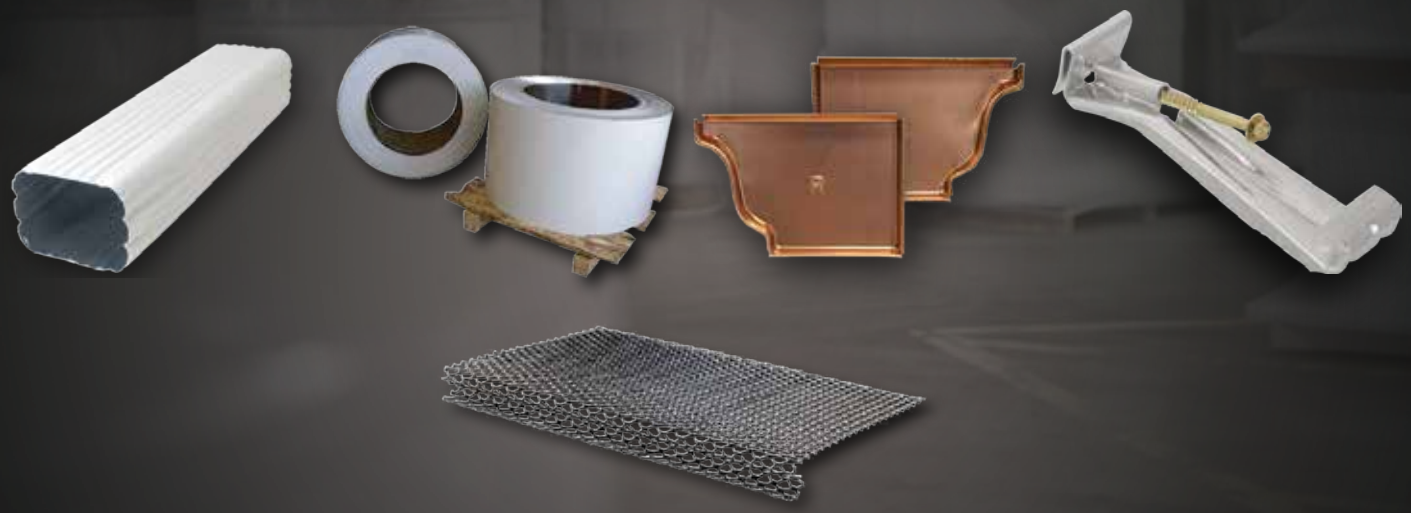

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Vol. 41, No. 11 June 9, 2025

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The New American

Printed in the U.S.A. • ISSN 0885-6540
770 N Westhill Blvd
Appleton, WI 54914

920-749-3784
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Rates are $59 per year (Canada, add $9; foreign, add $27). Copyright ©2025 by American Opinion Publishing, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Appleton, WI and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send any address changes to *The New American*, 770 N Westhill Blvd, Appleton, WI 54914.

The New American is published twice monthly by American Opinion Publishing Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of The John Birch Society.

JBS.org

The Circus Continues

The ridiculous drama surrounding the adventures of Kilmar Abrego Garcia illustrates perfectly the ideological divide in this country.

Liberals see Garcia as a hardworking immigrant, a dedicated father, and the unfortunate victim of an overzealous Trump administration deportation policy and a cruel, hardline Salvadoran president.

Conservatives point out the fact that Garcia is an illegal immigrant, has a record of domestic abuse, and has definite links to the violent Salvadoran MS-13 gang. He was deported to El Salvador — his home country — where he was put in prison for his crimes.

This media hype surrounding Garcia is all part of a pattern, and it's not the first time we've seen it. It's a common play for the Left to take an "oppressed" underdog and turn him into something of a martyr for one of their causes.

Astute readers might have heard of the Sacco and Vanzetti case in the 1920s. This incident involved two criminal immigrants who were portrayed by the leftist media of the day as innocent victims of racism and xenophobia. Sacco and Vanzetti were two Italian immigrant followers of violent anarchist Luigi Galleani who were arrested and indicted for murder in September of 1920. They were found guilty and sentenced to death, but that was not the end of the story.

Predictably, the liberal media of the day turned Sacco and Vanzetti into innocent victims — poor Italian immigrants who were mistreated by a racist America that didn't like their politics.

Fast-forward to 2025 America, and the Democratic Party and their media allies are playing the same game with Kilmar Abrego Garcia. As noted above, Garcia is a known member of the violent Salvadoran MS-13 gang and has a record of domestic violence. Nevertheless, his image has been transformed by the media into that of a hardworking family man who was mistakenly deported by a racist Trump administration.

But there's more at work than a mere media makeover for Garcia: Politicians in the Democratic Party have chosen this issue as their new *cause célèbre*. They are insisting Garcia was deported to El Salvador in error, and that the Salvadoran government needs to send him back to the United States. Senator Chris Van Hollen of Maryland (where Garcia had been living) even traveled to El Salvador to try to secure Garcia's release. While Van Hollen perhaps thought he was scoring points with his constituents, and might be trying to gain notoriety for "standing up to Trump," to most Americans what he did was ridiculous.

But wait, there's more: Two liberal judges — one in New Mexico and one in Wisconsin — have been arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement for harboring illegals and/or helping them evade arrest. Furthermore, some Democratic mayors have openly stated they would resist attempts by federal immigration authorities to find and deport illegals.

It appears that the Democratic Party has chosen illegal immigration as their hill to die on. But why? Is it simply symbolic, to appear as though they're resisting anything the Trump administration does? Do they actually think this is what Americans want? (Trump won the 2024 election in part because of Americans' frustration with the Biden administration's immigration policies.) Or is it a calculated political move, a continuation of their attempt to change America's demographics into something more likely to keep them in power?

Whatever the reason, the circus continues. The Left, in its arrogance and desperation to push its agenda on America at all costs, will latch on to anything that might hinder Trump's MAGA agenda. But Americans are seeing through the clown show, and the latest brouhaha is likely to backfire spectacularly.

In this issue of *The New American*, we take a look at the Garcia case in the context of the larger illegal immigration problem in this country. We also examine the Sacco and Vanzetti case to give an historical perspective on the current media manipulation.

Additionally, we explore such current events as the anti-Trump Mark Carney becoming the new prime minister of Canada and what this means for Canada-U.S. relations, the effect of "woke" transgender ideology on American youth, and various U.S. states recognizing gold and silver as legal tender in an attempt to restore sound money in America.

— John T. Larabell

KILMAR ABREGO GARCIA

THE LEFT'S NEW POSTER CHILD

Democrats defend, harbor, and help illegal-alien terror gang members and criminals.

by R. Cort Kirkwood

One would think that four years of the Biden administration's unlawful immigration policies that imported millions of illegal aliens — hundreds of thousands of them hardened criminals — and then President Donald Trump's crushing victory on November 5 would have taught the Democratic Party a lesson: This is a losing issue for them. Let Trump close the border and deport illegals. That's what Americans want. Alas and alack, expecting that lesson to sink in appears to be the triumph of hope over experience: They haven't just refused to moderate their defense of illegal aliens and illegal immigration, they have intensified it. On the one hand, Democratic lawmakers rallied to the cause of illegal alien Kilmar Abrego Garcia, who was deported to El Salvador. Federal authorities say Garcia is a member of the MS-13 terror gang, and court records say he is a vicious, wife-beating goon. Led by far-left Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), Democrats hurried off to El Salvador to push the government there to release Garcia. It refused.

On the other hand, and not to be outdone, two judges, one in Wisconsin and one in New Mexico, helped two illegal aliens commit crimes. Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Hannah Dugan helped an illegal alien try to escape arrest from federal agents who showed up outside her courtroom, where the illegal was in a hearing in connection with a brutal assault. Magistrate Judge Jose Cano and his wife harbored an illegal alien and Tren de Aragua terror gang suspect in their home in Las Cruces and destroyed evidence. The two judges and Cano's wife face serious federal charges.

These revelations invite the observation that something is terribly wrong with a political party that defends such individuals, and, indeed, even harbors them. And, worse still, lies about immigration law.

Background: Deportation, Court Ruling

The absurd contretemps over Salvadoran Garcia, who jumped the border when he was 16 in 2012, began when a Justice Department lawyer admitted in a court filing that he was mistakenly deported when immigration authorities sent him to El Salvador on March 15. That falsehood led a federal judge — appointed by President Barack Obama, of course — to order his return. The Trump administration appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled 9-0 that the administration must "facilitate" Garcia's return.

While far-left Democrats and their Mainstream Media Megaphone claimed the Trump administration lost the case, during a meeting between President Trump and Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele, Trump aide Stephen Miller explained that the ruling was a victory for the administration. "This has been portrayed wrong for 72 hours in the media," Miller noted:

> [The court] said the most a court could ever compel you to do would be to facilitate return, which would basically mean if El Salvador voluntarily sends him back we wouldn't block him at the airport. We would put him back into ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] detention and then he would be deported either back to El Salvador or somewhere else.

Amusingly, even a legal eagle for hate-Trump CNN agreed with Miller. He disclosed that the Justice Department lawyer who wrongly said the deportation was mistaken was suspended. And though Garcia supposedly had a "withholding order" that stayed his final order of deportation, it was invalid because of his MS-13 membership, Miller explained. Tough luck for Kilmar.

During the same meeting, Bukele said that he would not return Garcia to the United States because he would not release a terrorist. "The question is preposterous," the hard-as-nails president said. "How can I smuggle a terrorist into the United States? I don't have the power to return him to the United States." And even if he did, again, Garcia would be rearrested and deported, a point that Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem reiterated. "There is no scenario where Abrego Garcia will be in the United States again," she told Murphy during a Senate committee hearing. If he were to come back, we would immediately deport him again because he is a terrorist, he's a human smuggler, and he is a wife-beater."

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Poster boy: The Trump administration deported Kilmar Abrego Garcia, an illegal alien from El Salvador, on March 15. The administration says Garcia is a wife beater and MS-13 terror gang member. Far-left Democrats have been pushing the administration to return him to the United States.

There followed the 76 Democrat Trombones in the Big Parade to El Salvador, led by Senator Van Hollen. The band's blaring horns bellowed so loudly they nearly drowned out the truth about Garcia, his gang membership, and the protective orders his wife sought. About the only thing that junket did was validate the famous statement from far-left Democratic Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut: Illegal aliens are "the people we care about most."

Abrego Garcia, Gang Member

While the administration argued from the first that Garcia, now 29, was an MS-13 terrorist, police and

R. Cort Kirkwood is a longtime contributor to The New American. *He was a newspaperman for more than 25 years.*

court records from Tennessee and Maryland quickly proved it, despite Democrats' arguments to the contrary.

The Volunteer State's contribution to the story is a traffic stop in November 2022, when the Highway Patrol pulled over Garcia for speeding and failing to maintain his lane. Inside the 2001 black Chevy Suburban he was driving were eight passengers. Garcia confessed that his license was suspended, police body camera footage showed.

Fox News published the footage and what a patrolman said:

> "How many rows have you got in here? Four seats? Four rows of seats?" a state trooper can be heard saying. "Did y'all put an extra one in? Huh? Did yall put another one in? No? They come like this? I've never seen one with that many seats in it."
>
> "He's hauling these people for money," one state trooper said.

Garcia was holding $1,400 in cash. His passengers did not have identification, and, significantly, had no luggage. "And if you get them out … [they'll have] toothpaste and toothbrushes in their pocket. I guarantee it," a patrolman said. And when the cops checked Garcia's name in the National Crime Information Center, a source told Fox, they received a hit. He was a gang and/or terror suspect.

That fact is significant and validates what Just the News reported before the bodycam footage was released. "Abrego Garcia was flagged in 2022 by the Biden administration as a 'suspect alien' who was possibly involved in 'human smuggling/trafficking' after a traffic stop in Tennessee raised the suspicions of a state trooper, according to internal Homeland Security documents," the website reported.

Garcia told troopers that he was transporting the passengers from Texas to Maryland for "construction work." But significantly, the owner of the truck was convicted human smuggler and illegal alien Jose Ramon Hernandez Reyes, the website learned:

> Abrego Garcia told the state trooper that the owner was his boss. However, that SUV was flagged separately by the Homeland Security Investigations [HSI] Baltimore field office as belonging to a target they suspected of human trafficking or smuggling, the documents show.
>
> "Vehicle is used by HSI Baltimore target in human smuggling/trafficking operation. Vehicle makes trips to southern border to pick up non-citizens," the record reads. The memo says the Baltimore HSI case agent should be notified if the vehicle is encountered.

Just the News also drilled into Reyes' record, and found out that he had been transporting seven illegals, three of them previously deported, "from their home base of Houston, Texas, to different locations throughout the United States." Mississippi cops stopped him, and he landed an 18-month prison sentence for smuggling illegals. Better yet, Hernandez-Reyes confessed to federal investigators, sources told ABC News, that Garcia worked for him transporting illegals.

That fact segues to documents from the Prince George's County, Maryland, police department, which finger Garcia as an MS-13 terror gang member. Released by U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi, the documents show that Garcia "was validated as a member" of MS-13. His gang rank was "Chequeo"; his street name "Chele." (A *chequeo*, or "check," the BBC reported, is not a rank but a name for a new recruit.) Whatever the name implies, county cops "validated" Garcia's gang membership.

The fingers on Garcia's left hand bear tattoos that are coded MS-13 symbols. During testimony on April 30 to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee for his confirmation to become head of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Terrance Cole authenticated the tattoos with a photo that U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) produced.

"Based on your time and experience and expertise in the DEA, what does that photo or those markings suggest to you?" Graham asked.

Cole: "Well, they suggest that he's an MS-13 member — that those are his markings. That's his brand."

Graham walked Cole through the tattoos' coded MS-13 symbols.

Graham: "So based on your time as a DEA agent in the field, particularly in Mexico, these tattoos are consistent with MS-13 associations?"

Cole: "Yes sir, that's correct."

One more piece of evidence that Garcia is MS-13 came in a court plea for an emergency custody hearing from Edwin Trejo Ramos, the former husband of Garcia's wife, Jennifer Vasquez Sura, and the

Welcome: Immigrants line up to enter the Roosevelt Hotel in Manhattan. This was the center for migrants coming from the border in Texas during the last years of the Biden administration.

AP Images

father of Sura's children. Fearing for his children's lives, Ramos alleged in the petition that Sura "is dating a gang member."

Abrego Garcia, Wife Beater

Piled atop the positive identification of Garcia as an MS-13 terror gang member, the Ramos allegation opens discussion of Sura, who raised almost $300,000 on GoFundMe with a tearful tale about her family's travails after the feds sent her husband packing.

"Kilmar is a loving father, husband, son, brother, union construction co-worker," the plea says, who "has been wrongfully disappeared and deported, torn from his family due to a shocking administrative error by the US government." The tale from Sura compounded that falsehood:

> Kilmar is an excellent father. He has always been there for our three children and all of their needs. Two of them are on the autism spectrum (ages five and nine), and our third has epilepsy (age 10). Kilmar has been the main provider of our household and the love of my life for over seven years. Since our family has been separated, I have been devastated and confused. I lost my life partner, my children lost their father, and all of our family, neighbors, co-workers, and friends have been devastated due to this unjust family separation.

Total raised before the fundraiser closed: $265,916.

That's quite the stack of cash to raise using a big lie. Garcia is not an "excellent father," as Sura claimed, and the idea that he is a "loving husband," as the plea averred, is beyond preposterous. Sura's own court filings prove quite the opposite. Twice she petitioned the Prince George's County Circuit Court to protect her from Garcia. In the first report, August 2020, Sura described a brutal beating that left her bruised.

In a disjointed written account, Sura complained that Garcia took her phone, then demanded her car keys at 1:00 a.m. She refused, and told the raging thug that she wanted to use the car, an answer that infuriated him. Sura said she "went upstairs to make food for my kids but he turned off the stove and told me I wasn't going to cook anything for him until I gave him" the keys. Garcia locked her children in the basement, she alleged. Retrieving a phone from her car, she alleged, she called 911.

I STAND WITH KILMAR ABREGO GARCIA
WRONGFULLY HELD IN TRUMP'S OVERSEAS ICE JAIL
WRONGFULLY HELD IN TRUMP'S OVERSEAS ICE JAIL
BRING KILMAR HOME
AP Images

Charade: Deported illegal alien Kilmar Abrego Garcia's wife, Jennifer Sura, has twice filed for protection orders because of Garcia's brutal abuse. She says Garcia told a relative he could murder her and get away with it. Now she claims he is a loving father and husband.

"I try to return inside but he locked all doors," she continued. "After 5 min waiting for police, he opened the door and told me to give him the keys. I again try to make food for my kids because I could hear them crying [and] screaming."

When cops arrived, Sura "opened the door and yelled for help. When my husband heard he grabbed me back inside & slapped me," she alleged:

> Police came he acted violent with him & broke my phone in front of [the] officer. This is not the 1st time. It been a couple of occasion he takes my phone, and car, & I'm left without [being] able to call anyone.

Sura wrote that she has photos "of all the bruises [he's] left on my body," and the household goods Garcia destroyed. "Me & my kids are afraid now," she wrote:

> [He's] kicked me, pushed me, slapped me in the face. Threaten me, I also have a record[ing] that he told my ex-mother-in-law that even [if] he kills me no one can do anything to him.

So the man who told a third party that he could murder his wife and get away with it is, we are expected to believe, a "loving father and husband."

The visit by cops didn't stop the abuse.

In May 2021, Sura reported that Garcia whacked her with a work boot in November 2020, and before that, in August 2020, landed a crack that left her with a purple shiner. But that wasn't all. On May 4, "I was watching on my laptop, and he yelled to turn it off, I told him I wasn't sleepy, he got angry, reached over shut and threw my laptop on the floor, and the baby started to cry because he was putting pressure on him," she wrote on May 5 in the domestic abuse complaint:

> My [immediate] reaction was to push him off of us, and then he punched, scratched me on my left eye, leaving me bleeding.

Later that day, the distraught Sura reported, an angry Garcia ripped off her clothes. He chased her as she fled to the bathroom. Garcia grabbed her arm, she alleged. "I have marks on my left arm as well," she wrote. "I'm afraid to be close to him. I have multiple photos/videos of how [violent] he can be and all the bruises he has left me."

After the two written complaints went

public, *USA Today* published audio, apparently from Sura's August 2020 plea to a judge to stop Garcia. She told the judge that she skipped a previous hearing because Garcia's family "washed my brain." His father was ill, they said, and poor Kilmar mustn't undergo the ordeal of a domestic abuse indictment.

"I have a lot of police reports," she told the judge. During the incident described in the written petition, she escaped to get outside the home and call police.

"They took a long time to get to the house," she said:

> It was probably like 20, 30 minutes. So I saw a neighbor walking his dog and I opened the door, and I was, like, "help," and then, when [Garcia] heard me, like, he grabbed me … and he slapped me, and then the neighbor, like, he didn't know what to do, he didn't know what to react. I have pictures of the evidence, like all the bruises.… Even on Wednesday, he hit me, like, around, like, 3 in the morning, he would just wake up and, like, hit me. And then last Saturday … before I went to my daughter's birthday party, he slapped me three times. And then last week, I did call the police. My sister called the police because he hit me in front of my sister.

Confronted by Garcia's shills in the mainstream media, Sura had a ready explanation for the reports, most notably the audio. After all, she had convinced who knows how many well-meaning people to contribute more than $260,000 to her cause. "Recently an audio clip of a civil court hearing related to the protection order I filed became public," she told *USA Today*:

> I previously acknowledged the protection order and will again address a personal and painful part of mine and Kilmar's life. Neither of us were in a good place at that time.
>
> My husband was traumatized from the time he spent in ICE detention and we were in the throes of COVID. Like many couples, we were caring for our children with barely enough to get by. All of those factors contributed to the actions which caused me to seek the protective order.

Upshot: Being an illegal alien is quite the stressor. Poor Kilmar couldn't help but beat the daylights out of his wife and threaten to murder her. It was ICE's fault.

The Two Judges

So that's the man whom Van Hollen and the Democrats expect the Trump administration to return "home" to Maryland. Of course, he is home — in El Salvador. But at least one or more of those Democrats didn't try — not that we should put it past them — to help Garcia escape arrest by federal immigration authorities, or, worse, provide room and board and unlawful access to high-powered firearms.

That's what Democratic judges Hannah Dugan and Jose Cano did for other illegals.

Now suspended from the circuit court in Milwaukee, Dugan very possibly ended her career not only as a judge but also as a lawyer when she helped a Mexican illegal, Eduardo Flores-Ruiz, escape from Immigration and Customs Enforcement and other agents on April 18. Flores-Ruiz was in court to answer charges that he brutally assaulted two people.

ICE, the FBI, and Drug Enforcement Administration agents showed up at the courthouse to arrest the Mexican illegal. Then Dugan "became visibly angry, commented that the situation was 'absurd,' left the bench, and entered chambers," the criminal complaint alleges. "At the time, Flores-Ruiz was seated in the gallery of the courtroom."

Dugan angrily confronted an ICE agent, whom she ordered out of the courthouse. When the agent said he was there to make a lawful arrest on an administration warrant, Dugan told him he needed a "judicial warrant" and must see the circuit court's chief judge.

But Dugan wasn't finished. She apparently lost her marbles and lost touch with reality — or at least the reality that helping an illegal alien escape arrest is a federal crime. "Multiple witnesses have described their observations after Judge Dugan returned to her courtroom after directing members of the arrest team to the Chief Judge's office," the criminal complaint alleges:

> For example, the courtroom deputy recalled that upon the courtroom deputy's return to the courtroom, defense counsel for Flores-Ruiz was talking to the clerk, and Flores-Ruiz was seated in the jury box, rather than in the gallery. The courtroom deputy believed that counsel and the clerk were having an off-the-record conversation to pick the next court

AP Images

Publicity stunt? Far-left Democratic Senator Chris Van Hollen of Maryland is leading a crusade to return deported illegal alien Kilmar Abrego Garcia to the United States. The president of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele, has said he will not release Garcia, who is credibly accused of being a wife beater, illegal-alien smuggler, and MS-13 terror gang member.

date. Defense counsel and Flores-Ruiz then walked toward each other and toward the public courtroom exit. The courtroom deputy then saw Judge Dugan get up and heard Judge Dugan say something like "Wait, come with me."

Despite having been advised of the administrative warrant for the arrest of Flores-Ruiz, Judge Dugan then escorted Flores-Ruiz and his counsel out of the courtroom through the "jury door," which leads to a nonpublic area of the courthouse.…

Judge Dugan commanded Flores-Ruiz's attorney and [Flores-Ruiz] to leave through a backdoor of the courtroom.… [A witness] saw Judge Dugan escort Flores-Ruiz's attorney and [Flores-Ruiz] through a non-public door near the courtroom's jury box. Shortly thereafter, Judge Dugan came back to the courtroom and conducted hearings on that morning's docket.

Public Domain

Perp walk: Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Hannah Dugan is charged with obstruction of proceedings and concealing a person to prevent arrest. She helped a Mexican illegal alien escape arrest by federal agents by secreting him through a jury door in her courtroom.

Flores-Ruiz wasn't in court to answer a minor crime, such as having a speeding ticket or being drunk in public. He was charged with an assault in which he punched someone 30 times, then clobbered a woman who tried to stop the beating. Dugan's helping Flores-Ruiz to flee, of course, required the federal authorities to find him to arrest him.

The complaint alleges that Dugan broke two laws: 18 U.S. Code 1505, and 18 U.S. Code 1071. The first crime, felony obstruction, carries a five-year stretch in prison; the second, misdemeanor concealing an individual, is punishable by one to five years in prison.

Speaking to Fox News, U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi described Dugan more harshly and colorfully than the FBI's measured account. Dugan was "furious, visibly shaken, upset," Bondi said. Then she helped the Mexican skedaddle.

Yet as bad as Dugan's actions were, Cano's were likely the more dangerous to public safety.

The legal perils for Jose and Nancy Cano began in March when immigration authorities arrested Tren de Aragua terror suspect Cristhian Ortega-Lopez at Cano's home. Photos and video on social media depicted Ortega-Lopez with multiple weapons, including "a Sig Sauer P365 handgun, an AR-15 rifle equipped with a suppressor, and other high-powered firearms and ammunition," the Justice Department alleged:

> Distinctive tattoos confirmed Ortega-Lopez's identity in the photos and videos. Further review of his social media activity revealed content suggesting affiliation with Tren de Aragua, including gang-related tattoos, hand gestures, and clothing.

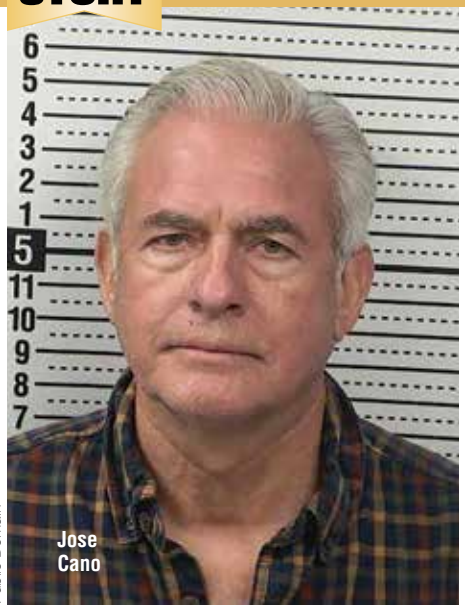
In January, a tipster told HSI that Ortega-Lopez and other illegals were living at a property in Las Cruces, New Mexico, owned by Cano and his wife, Nancy. In February, HSI searched the premises. They bagged Ortega-Lopez with "multiple associates" and seized four firearms.

Agents also seized three cellphones. Told he could make a phone call, the terror suspect told agents that the phone he wanted to use wasn't among the three. "Video calls ... later showed Nancy Cano holding a black iPhone believed to be Ortega's fourth phone," Justice alleges:

> In a March 7 call with Ortega-Lopez, Nancy Cano used the device to contact a person named "Michelle" via WhatsApp, then facilitated a FaceTime conversation between Michelle and Ortega-Lopez using her personal phone. Additionally, in an April 20 call, Nancy Cano and Ortega-Lopez discussed deleting his Facebook account — a platform where he had previously shared incriminating content, including gang affiliations and images with firearms.
>
> On April 24, HSI agents executed a subsequent search warrant at the Cano residence to locate the missing cellphone. During questioning, Jose Cano admitted to destroying Ortega's cellphone by smashing it with a hammer approximately five weeks prior, believing it contained incriminating photos and videos of Ortega with firearms.
>
> Forensic analysis of the recovered phones revealed messages linked to Ortega's criminal activities, including affiliations with the Tren de Aragua gang and images of Ortega with firearms.

The Canos could land 20 years in prison and a $250,000 fine if convicted of evidence tampering and conspiracy to tamper with evidence.

During the same interview with Fox News in which she discussed Dugan,



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Public Domain

Busted: Magistrate Judge Jose Cano and his wife, Nancy, face federal charges in connection with harboring an illegal alien and Tren de Aragua terror gang member in their home. Cano has admitted to destroying evidence to protect the gang member.

Bondi offered details about Cano's destruction of evidence and the images on one of Ortega-Lopez's phones. After smashing the phone with a hammer, Cano "walked the pieces to a city dumpster to dispose of it and to protect him." As for Ortega-Lopez, "this TdA member … had on a necklace that said 'kill,' something about death, [and] he had tattoos all over him," Bondi explained:

> He also had on his cell phone pictures of two decapitated victims. Two victims, decapitated. Gruesome photos. And he was sending them out. And whoever he was sending them to was sending back saying "hey, you need to be careful. You shouldn't be sending these. You shouldn't be texting these photos out."

Bondi also said the judge and his wife gave Ortega-Lopez a rifle that he fitted with a suppressor and used at a firing range.

Where Do These People Come From?

Reports of Democrats trying to return a deported terror gang member to the United States, tampering with evidence to protect another, and helping an illegal alien escape arrest by federal authorities sound impossible to believe, and they would be in normal times. But these aren't normal times.

For four years, the Biden administration aided and abetted an invasion of illegal aliens across the Southwest border of the United States. U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents caught and released millions of "migrants," some of whom raped and murdered women. Even "migrants" on the FBI's terror watch list were caught and released. Millions of the "migrants" were military-age young men, including upwards of 40,000 from China. In February last year, the appalling abandonment of border security prompted 10 former FBI agents to warn top members of Congress that Biden had set the stage for what could be a major terror attack or attacks. "These men are potential operators in what appears to be an accelerated and strategic penetration, a soft invasion, designed to gain internal access to a country that cannot be invaded militarily in order to inflict catastrophic damage if and when enemies deem it necessary," the officials wrote.

In September, ICE delivered a terrifying report to GOP U.S. Representative Tony Gonzales of Texas. As of July 21, 2024 ICE reported, "there were 662,566 noncitizens with criminal histories on ICE's national docket, which includes those detained by ICE, and on the agency's nondetained docket. Of those, 435,719 are convicted criminals, and 226,847 have pending criminal charges." That group included 13,099 convicted murderers and 25,272 convicted rapists and other sex criminals.

Top Democrats not only think nothing of these data, but also insist that crossing the border illegally is not a crime. That is, of course, false. But despite having been repeatedly educated on the subject by border czar Tom Homan, they mulishly insist they are right.

"They continue to say things like 'the illegals' and that they broke the law coming in," Representative Jasmine Crockett (D-Texas) said on MSNBC, the party's propaganda arm:

> But what they are not telling the American people is that it is a civil violation. It is not a criminal violation to enter the country illegally.… It's not a crime. Which is why they're so frustrated, because they really want our local law enforcement to go out and round up people, when they could be looking out for the murderers and sexual abusers, as well as the robbers. They want them to go and round people up on civil accusations.

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) said the same thing during a committee hearing, which invited Homan's correction. Even worse, she employed an illegal alien on her congressional staff, a federal crime under 18 U.S. Code 1324.

Thus, neither the Democrats' defense of Garcia nor the judges' crimes in aiding and abetting an illegal alien's escape or harboring a gang member and providing him with firearms is a surprise. The party no longer cares about the rule of law, and its loyalty lies not with the United States. In an honest age, that would be called treason. ■

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QUICK QUOTES

"TikTok says [the data it collects in the United States] stays in the U.S. with backups in Singapore. But multiple investigations (e.g. leaked audio from over 80 internal TikTok meetings in 2022) revealed that U.S. user data was repeatedly accessed by engineers in China.... Here's what TikTok sends back to their servers: your timezone, your longitude and latitude ... unique device identifiers ... network code, connection type, everything in your address book."

*Attorney and author **Brett Trembly** recently posted a thread of warnings on social media about the privacy that TikTok users hand over when agreeing to the app's terms of service.*

"Patients that have [private] insurance can opt to not have the vaccines. It is a totally different way of treating the poor population, or the ones who can afford paid insurance. And that should not be the case."

*In an interview with Children's Health Defense, **Dr. Samara Cardenas** related her experience of losing her Medicaid contract for refusing to administer Covid-19 vaccines to pediatric patients.*

"Today you think of AI as ChatGPT, but what it really is is a reasoning and planning system that we've never seen before.... They're going to need a lot more computation than we've ever had — a lot more energy.... The numbers are profound.... Many people think that the demand of energy that our industry takes will go from 3 percent to 99 percent of total generation. One of the estimates that I think is most likely is that data centers will require an additional 29 gigawatts of power by 2027, and 67 more gigawatts by 2030. That gives you a sense of the scale that we're talking about. These things are industrial at a scale I have never seen in my life."

*Trilateral Commissioner and former Google CEO **Eric Schmidt** said this during testimony before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce in April.*

"One hundred children died of Covid-19 if they were triple vaxxed. So their chance of dying was 302 times higher [than that of the unvaxxed]. Your chance of dying of Covid-19 itself was made 300-fold more likely if you took three jabs. And these are the numbers from the British Office of National Statistics.... Overall, vaccinated children were, within 6 months, 82 times more likely to die of any and all causes than unvaccinated children."

***Dr. Chris Shoemaker** made these remarks at an April meeting of the National Citizens Inquiry in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.*

"We are going to rewrite those [Corporate Average Fuel Economy] standards, bring it down to something that's far more reasonable.... It's gonna drive down the price of a car in America, making cars more affordable for families.... We've gotten rid of the social cost of carbon, driving down the cost to build roads and bridges across the country.... We have so many states and municipalities that don't follow the law. So whether it's DEI ... or they give illegals driver's license[s], or they're sanctuary cities or states, if you don't follow the law ... we're not gonna fund your projects."

*Transportation Secretary **Sean Duffy** made these comments at a Cabinet meeting at the White House in May.*

— Compiled by Rebecca Terrell

alfexe/Getty Images Plus

STATES MOVE TOWARD "TRANSACTIONAL GOLD"

States are considering and even passing legislation to give their citizens the free-market option of using gold as legal tender.

by Alex Newman

With the dollar's decades-long decline in purchasing power accelerating in recent years, state governments across America are moving quickly to give citizens a constitutional option for both saving and commerce. Known as "transactional gold," the idea is for state governments to create a system where gold and silver can easily be acquired, stored, used, saved, and turned back to dollars to be spent. Multiple states have already approved bills to do it, with more expected.

Under the system, states either create or contract with a depository institution to store and manage the precious metals.

Alex Newman is a senior editor of The New American *and author of* Deep State: The Invisible Government Behind the Scenes *and* Indoctrinating Our Children to Death.

In what was seen as a challenge to the Federal Reserve's mismanagement of the U.S. currency, Texas created its own bullion depository a decade ago. The "transactional" component comes when citizens are able to obtain a mobile app or debit-style card allowing them to spend the precious metals anywhere, anytime. Merchants can choose to be paid in dollars or metal.

Arkansas Goes First

The first state to officially get legislation signed into law creating a transactional gold system was Arkansas. On April 17, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders put her signature on House Bill 1918, authorizing gold and silver as legal tender for electronic payments. Building on 2023 legislation declaring the metals to be legal tender, the legislation passed with strong bipartisan support. Supporters said it aligned with the Constitution, which prohibits states from making anything other than gold or silver legal tender.

"This legislation is a game-changer for Arkansans," said Arkansas Representative Mindy McAlindon in a statement. "While our 2023 law was a vital first step, it didn't make gold and silver easily usable for the average person. Now, by linking gold and silver to a debit card through a secure vault system, we've created a free-market choice that empowers citizens to use precious metals as a hedge against inflation and a practical payment method for groceries, car repairs, or savings."

State Senator Jim Dotson, who sponsored and carried the bill in the Senate, also emphasized the benefits of the program. "This law makes gold and silver available to everyone," he said. "By making access to gold and silver easy to use, citizens can start with as little as 10 cents worth of gold, save securely, and spend it when needed. It's a rainy-day fund and

a currency all in one, giving Arkansans more control over their financial future."

Florida Shines Bright

Another major state moving ahead on transactional gold is Florida. As reported by *The New American* on May 1, Florida lawmakers voted unanimously to approve H.B. 999 under the leadership of State Representative Doug Bankson, a Republican. "What a wonderful thing that our nation's forefathers had the foresight to have states use gold and silver as legal tender in the Constitution," Bankson told *The Epoch Times* as part of an in-depth investigative piece the paper did on transactional gold efforts.

The Florida bill, which Governor Ron DeSantis told *The New American* magazine's Andrew Muller at a press conference in April that he would sign, establishes regulations for custodians to handle transactions involving precious metals. Now declared to be legal tender, gold and silver can officially be used as money once the law goes into effect. As Florida is a major economic powerhouse, analysts expect the bill to encourage other GOP-controlled states to move in the same direction.

Texas Depository Lead

Texas, with its state bullion depository, is already ahead of most states on bringing gold and silver back into commerce. Legislation to use the state institutions as part of a transactional gold system is moving through the Legislature quickly, with strong bipartisan support. H.B. 1056 passed the House on May 2 and is now being considered by the Senate. While it has very strong grassroots support — more than three in four Republicans voted on a ballot in favor of transactional gold — Democrats have also supported it.

"Over the last 6,000 years of history, gold and silver have kept their value and served as the standard," said Texas state Representative Mark Dorazio, the primary Republican sponsor of the bill in the House. "It is the go-to in economic crisis and instability — everyone knows you go to gold…. Everybody I talk to likes the idea of using our depository to conduct business. Plus, it would make money for the state. It's a win-win."

Utah Gold

Utah, a major gold producer, was the first state to get a transactional gold bill out of the legislature. Following recommendations from a state working group that investigated the matter, lawmakers voted overwhelmingly to approve the bill. It had the strong backing of Utah Treasurer Marlo Oaks, who told *The New American* last year that it was important for states to look at gold for stability and protection.

Representative Ken Ivory, a powerful leader in Utah politics, helped shepherd the bill through the Legislature. In comments to this writer, he explained that when President Richard Nixon severed the last connection between U.S. dollars and gold, an average house in Salt Lake City could be purchased for less than $20,000, the equivalent of about 563 ounces of gold back then. An average house in the city today is over $550,000, the equivalent of about 160 ounces of gold.

Utah Governor Spencer Cox, widely seen as a liberal-to-moderate Republican, vetoed the overwhelmingly popular transactional gold bill in his state, arguing that it would be "impractical" to implement. He did not offer details. It remains unclear whether lawmakers will be able to override his veto. However, legislative leaders told *The New American* that they intend to seek an override and that they expect to succeed.

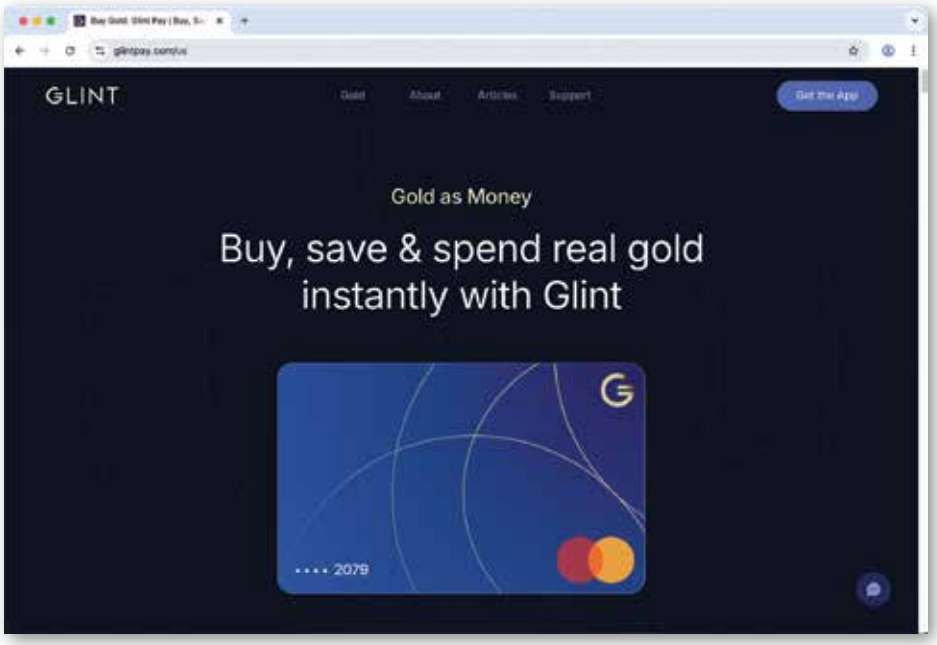
Private Sector

Despite Governor Cox's claims that the system would be "impractical," there are already private-sector companies, such as the U.K.-based Glint, that offer precisely such a system. It is used every day by people across the United States and beyond to purchase groceries and other necessities using gold. Leaders of the company have been supportive of state efforts, despite the potential for broader competition.

Other private initiatives, such as a company known as Goldbacks, are gaining traction as well. Goldbacks are bills that contain a certain amount of gold bullion inside them that can be used with participating merchants. First launched in Utah in 2019, the notes are now being used in voluntary transactions across numerous states, with thousands of businesses accepting them as payment.

Other States Moving Forward

With at least two dozen states considering legislation to create transactional gold systems, the landscape is shifting and evolving rapidly. From bills to remove taxes on precious metals and declare them legal tender to legislation mandating state reserve funds be allocated partly to precious metals, related proposals are proliferating in states as well. But analysts expect more movement on transactional gold this year, too.



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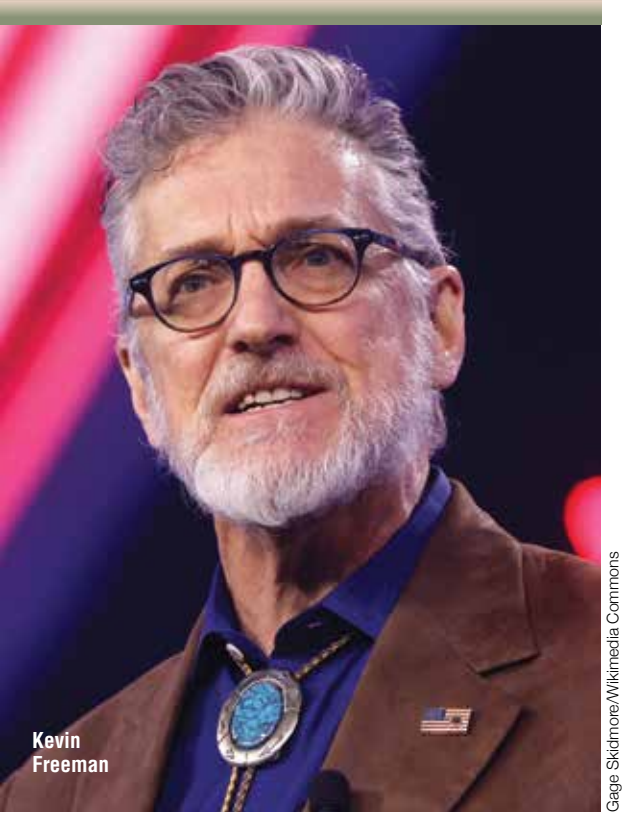

Kevin Freeman

Gage Skidmore/Wikimedia Commons

Oklahoma lawmakers, for example, passed legislation to establish a state-run depository for gold and silver, enabling citizens to use precious metals in financial transactions. House Bill 1197, championed by Senator David Bullard, would allow the state treasurer to create a local transactional depository. The goal is to provide Oklahomans with an alternative to fiat currency while promoting financial sovereignty, advocates of the proposal say.

Other states considering similar legislation include Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, and more, according to a list compiled by TransactionalGold.com. Louisiana's bill would create a 100-percent gold and silver-backed transactional currency, allowing any citizen to use gold and silver in their everyday transactions. Much more is expected in the months and years ahead.

Pirate Money

The man behind the movement for transactional gold is economic warfare expert Kevin Freeman, author of *Pirate Money: Discovering the Founders' Hidden Plan for Economic Justice and Defeating the Great Reset* and host of *Economic War Room* on Blaze TV. Freeman, whom lawmakers across the country credit as the inspiration behind the move toward gold, argues that the Founding Fathers provided these tools for Americans very deliberately and strategically. And only a return to precious metals, he said, will be able to protect the U.S. economy, the middle class, and individual liberty.

Speaking to *The New American*, Freeman celebrated all of the action in state capitols across the country this year. He also explained that the issue transcends political parties, with many Democrats jumping on the bandwagon when they see how it can help protect poor and middle-class Americans from the ravages of inflation and currency creation. "States should exercise authorities granted under the Constitution, even in regard to money," he said.

The Future

With gold prices consistently hitting new record highs, interest in the precious metal is not confined to central banks. While monetary authorities have indeed been purchasing massive quantities in recent years, retail demand is also increasing as the purchasing power of Federal Reserve notes continues declining. Using the metal as a hedge against inflation is one of the reasons, experts say, it is so attractive right now.

The resurgence of gold and silver as legal tender is more than just about economics, though. It reflects a growing movement among states and citizens to reclaim monetary sovereignty and create a stable, constitutionally backed alternative to fiat currency. As inflation continues to erode the value of the U.S. dollar, these legislative efforts illustrate a renewed passion for sound money principles and the protection of individual financial freedoms.

Perhaps the single biggest obstacle to wider adoption of gold and silver as money is the possibility of having to pay capital gains taxes on fictitious gains in precious metals. These gains result not from an increase in value of gold and silver, but from the erosion of the dollar's value caused by central-bank currency creation and out-of-control government spending. But Freeman and others believe that with Trump in the White House — the first president in decades to actively tout gold — there is a real opportunity to fix the problem.

With dozens of bills already introduced across the country and more expected in the months and years ahead, citizens have a real chance to advance sound money in America. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have shown massive support. Escalating financial and monetary turmoil are causing citizens and policymakers everywhere to seek answers. As such, there is now a historic opportunity to restore sound money — if Americans will get involved. ■

BLUE **HYDROGEN BLUES**

So-called clean hydrogen and its dependence on carbon capture amount to a minefield of risks for taxpayers, but a bonanza for companies grifting off federal subsidies.

AP Images

Slippery slope: Vehicle manufacturer Nikola was caught in a notorious promotional stunt in 2018 when it rolled a motorless semi downhill to fake functionality of its "clean hydrogen" vehicle.

by Rebecca Terrell

Blue hydrogen is a green boondoggle. Those who grift government handouts call it "clean" and say it's the death knell of the fossil-fuel era — the harbinger of a Net Zero, hydrogen-based economy. In reality, it's a sad gas with high risks to both life and the economy, and zero market potential in terms of energy generation.

"Hydrogen energy will cease to become viable when the subsidies provided to it by governments of the world dry up," writes David Legates of the Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation.

Reality proves him correct. Four years ago, the United Kingdom's Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy announced plans to "kick start [a] world-leading hydrogen economy" by "investing" £4 billion. Only two years later, return on the investment was so poor that the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee reported, "We do not believe that it will be the panacea to our problems that might sometimes be inferred from the hopes placed on it."

What an understatement! The U.S. government has been plugging hydrogen since at least 1975, when, according to Legates, a House of Representatives committee optimistically endorsed its "potential" for "our energy economy of the future." He also quoted a *Chicago Sun-Times* story from 1996 that cheered, "The first steps toward what proponents call the hydrogen economy are [now] being taken." Then in 2003, the George W. Bush administration announced a collaboration with the European Union "to develop a hydrogen economy," claiming it would "improve America's energy security."

Shouldn't that energy utopia have come to fruition by now? In a way, it has, depending on your perspective. Companies that gobbled up taxpayer dollars for their hydrogen hoaxes are now jumping ship, pocketing the subsidies gleaned in the process. In 2024, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that Shell "would close its hydrogen refueling stations in California as few people are buying fuel-cell vehicles, and subsidies for hydrogen production have fallen." This past February, Nikola Corporation, a U.S.-based manufacturer of hydrogen fuel-cell electric vehicles, filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy. High production costs and low demand were the main culprits, though the company will be remembered for its 2018 promotional video of a motorless Nikola One semi being rolled downhill to make viewers think it was functional.

Elsewhere hydrogen fares no better. Clean Logistics, a German hydrogen truck manufacturer, filed for bankruptcy in 2023. "Norwegian energy giant Equinor has scrapped plans to produce so-called blue hydrogen, citing high costs and insufficient demand," reported *The Telegraph* last September. And in April, Dow Chemical put the brakes on construction of its $9 billion Path2Zero blue hydrogen project in Alberta, Canada.

Funding Failure

But when did market indicators ever stop the U.S. government from pouring tax dollars into ridiculous boondoggles? The 2021 Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act allocated $8 billion for the "Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs (H2Hubs)" program — $7 billion for seven facilities across the nation, and $1 billion for demand-side support. (In other words, without subsidies, there would be neither supply nor demand.)

The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act added billions more for decarbonization technologies, including hydrogen, and introduced the 45V 10-year production tax credit, designed to make blue hydrogen economically competitive by offsetting production costs, which are significantly higher than those for conventional hydrogen production methods. Not exactly a level playing field for the competition.

Will Trump help right these wrongs? "The Trump administration's climate plan includes funding for blue hydrogen hubs in red states while withholding similar support for green hydrogen hubs in blue states," explains Phil Smith of York, Pennsylvania.

Rebecca Terrell is a senior editor of The New American.

AP Images

A carbon-captured moment: The dangerous duo of blue hydrogen and carbon capture enjoy the full backing of President Donald Trump and Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, though corporations admit no incentive beyond government subsidies.

(For an explanation of the various hydrogen hues, see the sidebar on page 19) His state has become something of a poster child for blue hydrogen thanks to two facilities it shares with neighbors: the Mid-Atlantic Clean Hydrogen Hub (MACH2) and the Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2), together accounting for nearly $1.7 billion of infrastructure largesse. To cap it off, former Governor Tom Wolf signed a $2 billion tax credit package in 2022 to incentivize hydrogen hubs in his state.

According to *Politico*, Trump now wants to cut funding for four hubs nationwide. However, "Congress authorized the spending for the projects," and "lawmakers would have to formally rescind those dollars to cancel them." Additionally, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum proved himself a champion of both blue hydrogen and the carbon capture involved in its production while he was governor of North Dakota, where the Heartland Hydrogen Hub remains in Trump's good graces.

The Grifters

Major oil and gas companies such as ExxonMobil and Chevron are also cheerleaders for blue hydrogen. They are two of 140 members of the industry association Hydrogen Council, which promotes the element as "climate friendly." Who can blame them, with billions in subsidies dangling like low-hanging fruit?

To add insult to injury for the U.S. taxpayer, many of the companies raking in the dole-out dough for these hubs are foreign. In fact, *The Wall Street Journal* warned following passage of the Inflation Reduction Act that "the biggest winners in America's climate law [are] foreign companies."

For example, France-based Air Liquide is a partner in both of Pennsylvania's projects as well as HyVelocity on the Gulf Coast and the Midwest and Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hubs. Australia's Fortescue Future Industries and Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries are also invested in the latter. The American subsidiary of Sumitomo Corporation, headquartered in Japan, is a partner in Burgum's Heartland hub. Germany's Bosch has a hand in California's ARCHES, while ArcelorMittal of Luxembourg and BP in England are involved in MACH2.

A Costly Mirage

These companies support hydrogen because of government *greenbacks*, not because they're "going green." They know all the reasons their hubs will fail. First, hydrogen "is insanely expensive, in energy terms, to manufacture," as journalist Robert Bryce explains on his Substack. "It takes about three units of energy, in the form of electricity, to produce two units of hydrogen energy." Moreover, producers generate "a tiny molecule that's hard to handle, difficult to store and expensive to use."

"Hydrogen gas does not play well with metals," Legates explains. It reacts with them, destroying their chemical structure and causing "hydrogen embrittlement." Therefore, storage tanks must include thick walls and special coating, which makes them especially heavy and outrageously expensive. Otherwise, hydrogen would have to be stored at temperatures above 300 degrees Fahrenheit, or as a liquid, which "would require compression to seven-hundred times atmospheric pressure and refrigeration to minus-four-hundred-twenty-three degrees Fahrenheit." Both options are even more expensive and impractical than the first.

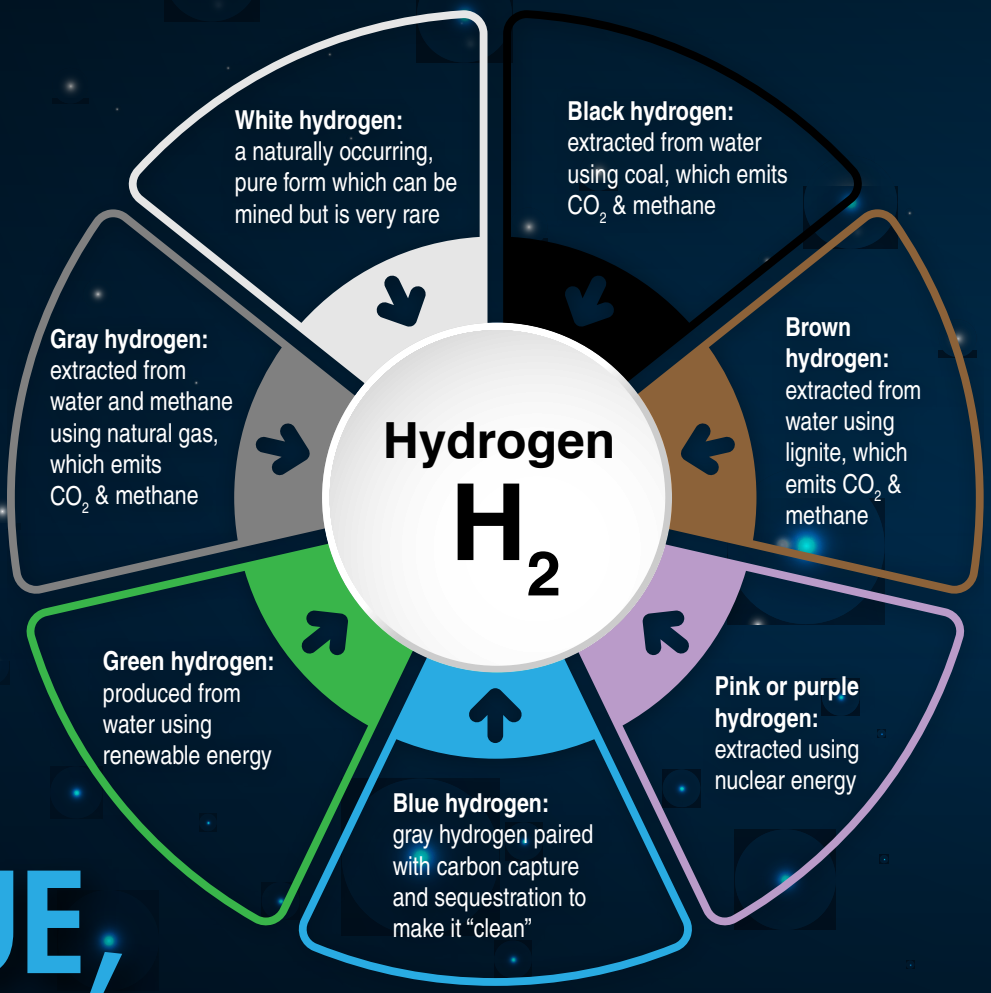
Hydrogen proponents offer another solution: blend it with natural gas. But Legates exposes the inanity of that suggestion: "Why not simply use the methane in the turbine rather than wasting energy by converting it to hydrogen?" Mix it back into natural gas, and it's no longer "clean."

The largest nail in hydrogen's coffin, however, is its extreme flammability. It can ignite with a spark from something as minor as static electricity or the flip of a light switch, and can do so even at low atmospheric concentrations. It burns rapidly. The *Hindenburg* disaster of 1937 illustrates hydrogen's dangers, especially in transportation applications.

In other words, hydrogen presents a hefty bill for consumers. Indeed, government officials would be hard-pressed to find an energy source more expensive. Writing on TheConversation.com, chemical engineer Tom Baxter of the University of Aberdeen observed that, "on average, the cost of hydrogen per kilowatt-hour will be greater than the electricity it is derived from." He predicted that thanks to green hydrogen promoted by the U.K., households will be paying as much as five times more than their current (already high) energy bills.

Historically, access to affordable energy sources promotes prosperity, while limited access exacerbates poverty. Liberals and conservatives agree on this fact. The Trump White House calls energy "the cornerstone of the American advantage" and "the key to American security." The World Economic Forum published an article titled, "Why energy poverty is the real energy crisis," stating, "Energy poverty impacts every aspect of people's lives; it impinges on freedom."

The fact that they admit as much indicates precisely the true aim of "Net Zero" goals. ■


White hydrogen: a naturally occurring, pure form which can be mined but is very rare
Black hydrogen: extracted from water using coal, which emits CO_2 & methane
Brown hydrogen: extracted from water using lignite, which emits CO_2 & methane
Pink or purple hydrogen: extracted using nuclear energy
Blue hydrogen: gray hydrogen paired with carbon capture and sequestration to make it "clean"
Green hydrogen: produced from water using renewable energy
Gray hydrogen: extracted from water and methane using natural gas, which emits CO_2 & methane
Hydrogen H_2

WHY SO BLUE, HYDROGEN?

Science tells us that more than 90 percent of atoms in the universe are hydrogen. Here on Earth, the element prefers to bind itself to others, so it is very rare to find naturally occurring geological deposits. Usually, two of its atoms glom onto oxygen to form water, or four attach themselves to a carbon atom to make methane.

"You have to break those chemical bonds to get the hydrogen, and that requires energy," explains theoretical physicist Sabine Hossenfelder in her YouTube video "Hydrogen Will Not Save Us. Here's Why." She explains the color scale used to identify various methods of hydrogen extraction (see the above graphic for descriptions).

Let's step outside the realm of reality for a moment to illogically accept that we need to rid the atmosphere of excess greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as carbon dioxide and methane. Even if this were true, hydrogen of any color is a non-solution.

Environmental scientists admit that painting gray hydrogen blue doesn't really make it "clean." In 2021, Cornell and Stanford University researchers Robert Howarth and Mark Jacobson reported results of their study "How Green Is Blue Hydrogen?" in the journal *Energy Science & Engineering*. They concluded that the GHG "footprint" of blue hydrogen is roughly equivalent to emissions from using natural gas directly to make electricity. In fact, due to "fugitive" methane emissions along the supply chain, they discovered that blue hydrogen could be 20-percent worse than gas in terms of GHGs.

It turns out that "green" is also a thin veneer for hydrogen. Reporting in the same journal in 2021, researchers with the Australian Centre for Sustainable Energy Systems found that green hydrogen's GHG emissions are roughly equivalent to those of gray hydrogen due to the undependable nature of so-called renewable energy, which always has to be backed up by reliable forms (e.g., fossil fuels).

So why extract the hydrogen at all, you ask? For the billions in subsidies, of course! Government handouts stand to make a few wealthy corporations even wealthier, and that fact should make fleeced taxpayers very blue. ■

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Who Is MARK CARNEY?

Globalist-socialist Justin Trudeau is no longer prime minister of Canada. But Mark Carney, his replacement, may turn out to be Trudeau 2.0.

by Andrew Muller

In late April, Mark Carney's Liberal Party won enough seats in Canada's Parliament to form a government. While the Liberals failed to obtain a majority — winning 169 seats when 172 are needed — Carney, the anointed replacement of Justin Trudeau with a deep establishment background, beat Conservative opposition leader Pierre Poilievre in the much-anticipated federal election.

"They both are globalists, but Carney is the globalist-in-chief," Maxime Bernier, former member of Parliament, minister of foreign affairs, and leader of the People's Party of Canada, told *The New American*, comparing the candidates.

With Carney's victory, Canada is locked into years of unchained mass migration, enforced "sustainable" energy production, and economic turmoil.

Andrew Muller is a writer, researcher, and speaker on America's religious and constitutional heritage with the specific goal of sharing a biblical worldview and Americanism.

Trudeau Out, Carney In

After a decade of leading the nation as prime minister, Justin Trudeau stepped down in March 2025. He left the Great White North with a massive deficit, a housing crisis, an annual migration of a million immigrants, and a shrinking energy supply because of failing green-energy policies.

In December 2024, Trudeau had a 22-percent approval rating, and Pierre Poilievre's Conservatives were expected to defeat him handily. Then everything changed.

Due to irreconcilable differences in economic policy and how to handle incoming U.S. tariffs, Canada's finance minister, Chrystia Freeland, resigned. Weeks later, Trudeau followed, revealing that he would be stepping down as prime minister.

Canada's government is structured as a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy. The prime minister is elected by the majority party in power in Parliament, and is not directly elected by the people. Trudeau exiting stage left cleared the way for Carney to slip in as the Liberals' "new" face. Carney, who has never been a member of Parliament, was elected in a leadership vote, and sworn in on March 14.

"The same people are in charge — the same orchestra, the same repertoire," Senator Michael MacDonald, representing Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, told *The New American*. "[Carney is] just a different conductor with the baton in hand."

A mere nine days after taking over from Trudeau, Carney called for a snap election to seek a strong mandate, hoping for Liberals to gain more seats in Parliament to handle Canada's economic crisis. "We need to build the strongest economy in the G7. We need to deal with President

Crocodile tears: Trudeau's resignation was a coordinated bait-and-switch to usher in Carney.

AP Images

Trump's tariffs," he said in a post on X. "Canadians deserve a choice about who should lead that effort for our country."

Election Results

The Liberals won 26 more seats than the Conservatives, securing Carney's victory. Conservative leader Poilievre even lost his own seat in Parliament to Liberal Bruce Fanjoy, a first-time politician and stay-at-home dad. Poilievre's electoral district in Carleton — surrounding the southern areas of Ottawa — had a staggering 91 candidates vying for his seat. In contrast, the top six races for Parliament, including Carney's, had a maximum of six candidates in each race.

Eighty-five of the 91 candidates in Poilievre's district had ties to an advocacy group called the Longest Ballot Committee, which targets certain candidates to allegedly spark debate about democracy and election reform. However, the group only targeted Poilievre, in what Tanya Gaw, the founder of the grassroots educational organization Action4Canada.com, told *The New American* was a "coordinated" effort to take him down.

Surprisingly, youth gravitated toward the Conservatives before the election. According to a Nanos poll released April 25, Conservatives bested Liberals 44 percent to 31.2 percent among 18- to 34-year-olds.

The sudden shift toward the Liberals during the actual election was in part due to the threat of tariffs from President Donald Trump and Trump's rhetoric about Canada becoming the 51st state. "That was not a traditional election," Bernier explained to *The New American*. "I must say that it was mostly a referendum against [becoming] the 51st state."

"We cannot have a trade war against the U.S.," said Bernier, who ran for Parliament in an electoral district of Quebec but lost. "The U.S. is 10 times bigger than us. So, let's have a real policy and a real debate about what is going wrong in this country."

The mainstream media helped provoke the anti-Trump ire of Canadians to squelch the lead of the Conservatives. Already left-leaning baby boomers were enraged by Trump's remarks to annex the nation, for instance. "Trump's tariff ideas and 51st state rhetoric definitely impacted the election," MacDonald told *The New American*. "The MSM [mainstream media] in Canada were obsessed with it, and the Liberals exploited both TDS [Trump derangement syndrome] and anti-Americanism, something very successful with low-information voters and Baby Boomers who only watch the evening news on the major newscasts."

Carney's Financial Background

Despite never holding any public office before becoming PM, Carney has been a significant political figure, acting as "a career banker and climate advocate with the globalist mindset of a true Davos man," as *Politico* put it.

Carney's financial career began with 13 years of climbing the ladder at Goldman Sachs. In 2003, he became deputy governor of the Bank of Canada. For three years, he was the senior associate deputy minister and G7 deputy in the Department of Finance Canada.

Then, in 2008, he took over the governorship of the Bank of Canada. He was at the helm during the 2008 financial crisis, and boasts that his tenure protected the nation during one of "the most turbulent economic periods in modern history."

Carney crossed the Atlantic in 2013 to become the first non-British head of the Bank of England since its formation in 1694.

Staying at the post throughout Brexit — the U.K.'s successful campaign to leave the European Union — Carney was a strong opponent of separation, warning that a recession was likely to occur if the nation reclaimed some of its sovereignty. Drawing mass criticism for his fearmongering, he received pressure to resign for his partisanship. But, as one of his spokesmen told the BBC in 2016, Carney felt it "a duty" to make his position known.

The recession never happened.

Ending his tenure at the Bank of England during the beginning of the global Covid-19 response, he then became the Brookfield Corporation's vice chair and the "firm's ESG [environmental, social, and governance]-focused investment strategist," a 2020 press release from the Canadian-American alternative asset manager states.

Carney also served as an "informal adviser to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic," according to the state-funded Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Poilievre tried to expose the connection between Carney and Trudeau to blame him for the tanking of Canada's economy: "As Trudeau's economic advisor, Carney made Canada weaker and poorer. And working for himself, he made America stronger and richer. Carney cashed in and Canada lost out."

Carney tried to distance himself from that role during Canada's federal leadership debate before the election: "I did not provide any of that advice," he responded to Poilievre.

But according to senior government officials surrounding Trudeau in 2020, Car-

ney "certainly has been advising the PM through different phases of this [Covid-19]." "I'd hope we can count on him for more," one source added.

"To me, he was responsible for the financial collapse of Canada," Gaw said, noting that Carney's connections to globalist organizations troubled her.

Carney's *curriculum vitae* as a globalist is rather extensive. He was a member of the Group of 30 (G30), held a position on the Foundation Board of the World Economic Forum, and attended the notorious Bilderberg meetings in 2011, 2012, and 2019. As PM, Carney will be "slavish" to the UN and WEF agendas, according to MacDonald.

Carney's Climate Carnage

With his background in banking, Carney has labored to drag Canada's private sector into the fight against man-made "climate change." He became the United Nations' Special Envoy on Climate Action and Finance in 2020, and launched the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero in 2021 at COP26, aimed at bringing financial institutions together to achieve net-zero emissions of CO_2, the gas of life.

Net-zero emissions through the green transition are "the greatest commercial opportunity of our time," Carney has said.

In his 2021 book *Value(s): Building a Better World for All*, he parrots talking points from the United Nations and World Economic Forum: "The second great wave of globalisation is cresting. The Fourth Industrial Revolution is just beginning. And a new economy is emerging, driven by immense changes in technology, the reordering of global economic power and the growing pressures of climate change."

Carney advocates for a series of "solutions" that the world "must focus on" to defeat the changing climate. Chiefly, carbon-capture pipelines, a carbon tax, and net-zero emissions of CO_2. "Over the next three decades," he asserts in his book, "the total required investments in the energy sector alone will be $3.5 trillion per year. Another $50 to $135 billion per year will be needed to develop and scale carbon capture and biofuel technology."

To fund this massive expense, a carbon tax, a fee for individuals and businesses that use "too much" carbon — while flying, driving, drilling, etc. — must be levied.

Parts of Canada have been collecting a carbon tax since 2007, with a federal pricing system beginning in 2018. The carbon tax issue was a key campaign pressure point for the Liberals. Poilievre campaigned on "axing the tax," arguing that the "carbon tax will blow a $20 billion-a-year hole in our economy — at an additional cost of $1200 per Canadian family every year."

Despite calling for all nations to "have a price on carbon" and writing in his book that "meaningful carbon prices are a cornerstone of any effective policy framework," Carney suspended the carbon tax upon being selected as Trudeau's replacement. Analysts and Conservative politicians suspect the suspension is a tactical move to distance Carney from Trudeau for a time, and that he will likely reinstate it.

"Carbon tax removal? Pure theatre," said MacDonald, who served as vice president of the Conservative Party. "The Conservatives won the public relations battle on that issue, and the Liberals relented. Carney signed a decree ending the tax, but it is only suspended. And you can't remove a law in Canada by decree — it must be done by Parliament. But our MSM ignores any discussion about such inconsistencies."

Where to From Here?

Experienced and connected, Carney is certain to take the liberalization of Canada to the next level. On tariffs, he will fight Trump tooth and nail. Taking shots at the U.S. president, he stated that "President Trump has ruptured the global economy…. America's leadership of the global economy is over. It's still in play, but it is a tragedy, and our new reality.… In this trade war, just like in hockey, we will win."

In a recent interview with *Meet the Press* after Carney's win, Trump doubled down on his criticism of Canada, arguing that the United States can no longer subsidize her northern neighbor "to the tune of $200 billion a year." He said he will never stop talking about making the country the 51st state, and that "it would be a cherished state."

Looking at the election results from an America-first perspective, Canadians' choice of Mark Carney as PM makes it obvious that a U.S.-Canada merger would dilute, if not potentially destroy, the movement to return America to a constitutionally limited government. ■

AP Images

"Globalist-in-chief": Fighting "man-made climate change" is a top priority for Carney. He has consistently called for carbon capture, a carbon tax, and the eradication of CO_2, the gas of life.

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NASHVILLE "TRANS" SCHOOL SHOOTER PRODUCT OF WOKE IDEOLOGY

The same transgender ideology that murderess Audrey Hale became obsessed with is, to varying degrees, infecting millions of young people.

by Paul Dragu

"I have to kill so I can be remembered, in the most horrific way possible that no one will ever forget." That line is from the pages of the Nashville school shooter's journals, released in early April 2025 to the House Intelligence Committee and to political commentator Megan Kelly.

The FBI released more than 1,000 pages of the killer's writings. They portray a tormented individual who furiously embraced the self-loathing woke beliefs that academia, mainstream media, entertainment, and the Democratic Party have been force-feeding society in recent years.

On March 27, 2023, 28-year-old "Aiden" Hale, born Audrey Hale, armed with three firearms including a semiautomatic rifle, entered the Covenant Presbyterian Church and School in Nashville and murdered three children and three adults before police killed her. According to the police report, Hale had been planning her killing spree since 2017.

In her writings, she idolizes other mass shooters, referring to the 1999 Columbine killers as "gods." Hale, not surprisingly, was depressed. She wrote the word "abyss" on several pages of her journals. She was also obsessed with achieving notoriety.

After the shooting, the Nashville Police Department recovered a collection of her writings but withheld them, citing an ongoing investigation. Many suspected the police intended to hold on to the writings permanently so as not to sully the reputation of a protected social class. The killer was obviously "transgender." And she obviously targeted Christians. But what was not obvious, and perhaps the major reason it took a leadership change in the White House and at the FBI to get her writings released, was that she embraced nearly every major tenet of wokeness. She was a creation of woke ideology, and her killing spree illustrated what woke ideology is capable of creating.

Paul Dragu is a senior editor for The New American.

Product of Woke Ideology

The police had consistently downplayed Hale's "trans" identity. But her writings suggest she was obsessed with transgenderism. More importantly, it would never have occurred to her that she could be another gender had the idea not been presented to her. She wrote:

> I didn't know trans existed. I thought you could only be gay or bi … but transgender is transcending way deeper to the core.… If I had puberty

> blockers back then, I would've transitioned a long time ago, but I didn't know you could possibly change your sex. I'm mad that no one told me until I was 22. I feel I'm too old and too late to become a man. Now the process takes months to years. By the time that happens I'm 30. And then 10 years later, I got a bald spot on my head and look like an old man. Hell no! It's best to start it at 16 for shots, but my youth is over, way past now and it's over. Over! How dare God hand me a training bra when I didn't know WTF it was as a kid. I hated it.… We should all choose our gender.

Hale was also taken in by another woke tenet, that of white self-hate. She sought "black love" and despised whiteness. She also hated her country. She wrote:

> White people who want to take away instead of adding more. What do you call that? America is not the land of the free, it's a land full of idiots. It will only get worse in this country, not near enough gods like me. America and its people all destined to soon be destroyed. Hate you all.

Convincing people to hate their race — to hate themselves — and their country is a strong indicator of powerful brainwashing. The purveyors of wokeism have for years worked to convince Americans that their country is fundamentally racist and that white people are intrinsically wicked. The Nashville school shooter swallowed it hook, line, and sinker. And, as with her newfound transgender discovery, she likely wouldn't have come to these insidious thoughts of self-hatred had they not been so prevalent.

This is not the first time transgenderism has been linked to murder. For many years, a small group of brainy transvestites known as "Zizians" wreaked havoc across the United States. They are suspected of having ties to six murders around the country. The group's leader, Jack Amadeus LaSota, goes by "Ziz." Police arrested him in Maryland back in February. One member, a German math whiz who went by the name "Ophelia Bauckholt," was killed in January 2025 during a shootout with Border Patrol agents in Vermont. A Border Patrol agent died as well. Before that happened, a California man who had rented out property to the trans cult members many years prior was found dead.

Legitimizing Transgenderism

According to the police report, the Nashville school shooter was autistic. In her well-researched book *Lost in Trans Nation: A Child Psychiatrist's Guide Out of the Madness*, psychiatrist Miriam Grossman points to a strong correlation between transgenderism and autism:

> If your child has autistic traits such as social impairment, difficulty adjusting to change, obsessive interests, all-or-nothing thinking, and sensory issues, her or she may be vulnerable to transgender ideology. People with autism often feel different, misunderstood, and isolated. Their thought patterns and non-conformity likely predispose them to recruitment.

Grossman documents how medical associations were hijacked by degenerate activists whose mission was to remove gender dysphoria from its long-standing classification as a disorder, thus normalizing it. She shows how the powerful World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), the American Psychiatric Association (APA), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and even the Endocrine Society pushed through changes in standards with no regard for empirical data. In one example, endocrinologist Dr. William Malone describes how that happened during an Endocrine Society meeting. He said that the society

> rolled out a set of guidelines for gender dysphoric adolescents and children that had really no evidence base, and essentially said that okay, your job as endocrinologists now is to medically affirm children — well [i.e., healthy] adolescents — with puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones…. There was no discussion at all. It was difficult even to submit questions after they presented the guidelines. It was done under an atmosphere of "This is how it's going to be, and if you ask questions, you're a bigot."

And when medical professionals did resist, the activists in charge quashed debate: "In 2021, pediatrician and AAP member Julia Mason submitted a resolution suggesting the Academy halt their promotion of medical transitions for minors until research demonstrated long-term benefit." The resolution received an 80-percent "yes" vote in favor of being heard in committee. "That was about the highest support for any resolution in that Committee," Grossman

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White-coat woes: Medical associations have been hijacked by activists pushing the trans agenda. Doctors are now expected to fall in line, and those who speak out are silenced.

notes. But when the committee met to decide which resolutions to debate, that one was not even mentioned. The AAP committee disappeared it.

Mason submitted another, similar resolution the following year. This time it was quashed by "bureaucratic trickery." AAP leaders created a rule saying only resolutions sponsored by a chapter or committee could be reviewed.

Former AAP president Joseph Zanga told Grossman that he personally asked the academy to change course on this destructive practice, but to no avail. He said:

> The Academy of late has been unwilling to even discuss the transgender issue. It's something that I as a past president, a member of the Past Presidents Advisory Committee, have asked the Committee to consider and discuss. It unfortunately never gets added to our meeting agenda. I stand here and say, I'm disappointed.… The science says that children and adolescents are not capable of making these kinds of decisions.

Crushing dissent to fool the public into believing there is consensus is what Grossman refers to as the "Castro Consensus":

> The medical community has adopted Fidel's methods. Policymaking is dictated by a small number of ideological bullies who silence dissenting voices…. Only one approach is permitted, gender-affirming care.... Then the establishment institutions proclaim the silence is settled, everyone agrees.

(Readers can watch a *TNA* interview with Grossman at thenewamerican.com/video/tv/activists-in-medical-organizations-behind-the-transgender-cult/.)

The transgender push has prompted an onslaught of lawsuits and resignations, even among those generally supportive of the transgender movement. An associate director at a clinic in London that performed "gender transitions" resigned because children were being "transitioned" without what that person felt was adequate therapy. Thirty-five psychologists left for the same reason. Grossman cites other examples of individuals in the medical industry, many in the United States, who became disillusioned with their profession over the way the trans issue was being handled.

AP Images

Speaking out: Chloe Cole underwent "gender transition" surgery as a minor, and is trying to prevent other children from being victimized. She is seen here at a September 2022 press conference in Washington, D.C., for the Protect Children's Innocence Act.

Legal experts predict a wave of lawsuits will hit over the coming years. Several are already working their way through the system.

Chloe Cole is suing Kaiser Permanente for medical malpractice. She was given puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and a double mastectomy between ages 13 and 17. Her testimony is heartbreaking:

> My teenage life has been the culmination of excruciating pain, regret, and most importantly injustice. I have been emotionally and physically damaged and stunted by so-called medical professionals in my most important developmental period. I was butchered by an institution that we trust more than anything else in our lives. What is worse is that I am not alone in my pain. I will see to the fact that the blood and tears of detransitioners like myself will not lay waste. It is impossible for me to recoup what I have lost, but I will insure no children will be harmed at the hands of these liars and mutilators.

The law firm representing Cole encourages anyone who's had similar experiences to contact it.

Another high-profile case is that of Cristina Hineman, who is suing Planned Parenthood for negligence. Hineman alleges Planned Parenthood gave her testosterone without an adequate mental-health analysis. Cristina's story is emblematic of many who were sucked into the trans cult. She became confused about her sexuality when she was young, after which peers and people online introduced her to trans ideology. She was also diagnosed with autism. She met a therapist who "affirmed" her instead of treating her mental issues.

From Transgenderism to Transhumanism?

During its short time raging through mainstream Western society, trans ideology has destroyed countless lives. The push of this social contagion was obviously coordinated by forces with great influence. How else could something so absurd and destructive achieve the level of legitimacy it has? This virulent ideology has been embraced by media, entertainment, politics, the corporate world, and academia, where it had been lurking since the 1960s. And despite the Trump administration's attempt to discredit it, it still infects society. Just as this article was being written, news broke that actor Robert DeNiro's son had come out as transgender. Around the same time, the

Transitioning: Some say the end goal of the whole transgender movement is transhumanism, the merging of humans with technology to produce a new type of organism.

Qbertstudio/Adobe Stock

Daily Mail published a report about a judge in Canada who ruled that "a non-binary Canadian's $70,000 gender affirming surgery — that will see her keep her penis and get a vagina constructed — will be fully funded by taxpayers."

Why Is This happening?

Some have suggested this is another campaign pushed by globalists to further destabilize Western culture. Mission accomplished. Others believe it's another arrow in the quiver of depopulation. Elites have been obsessed with "culling the herd" for at least two centuries. It's hard to imagine a more effective method of population control than convincing people to self-castrate. Yet a third theory posits that transgenderism is designed to pave the way for a post-human future. Transgenderism may be part of an attempt to eliminate humans as God created us. Of course, it could be a combination of all three.

Martin Rothblatt, founder of SiriusXM, published the book *The Apartheid of Sex* in 1995. In 2011, Rothblatt expanded and republished the book under the new title *From Transgender to Transhuman*. By then, Martin had become "Martine." As far as he's concerned, he's a woman.

In his book, Rothblatt writes that mankind needs to eliminate binary sex classifications. He advocates for a future when human identity "transcends" God-designed biology. He views male and female designations as unjust, slavish social constructs akin to racism. "The apartheid of sex is every bit as harmful, painful, and oppressive as the apartheid of race," Rothblatt argues.

Not surprisingly, he hates religion: "The thrust of early Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Judeo-Christianity was to make women ashamed of their bodies and to thus make it easier for men to control them." He refers to long-standing sex distinctions as "cultural fascism."

Rothblatt, for all his mad genius, makes some absurdly inaccurate statements. He says, "Science has been as unable to find any absolute mental difference between persons with penises and persons with vaginas as it has between persons with dark brown or light tan skin." Anyone with a basic understanding of biology knows that men's and women's minds operate differently precisely because of their individual sex differences.

Nevertheless, Rothblatt predicts a future without sexual distinctions. "Over time," he says, "technology will enable a growing majority of people to live beyond male or female gender identities." But he goes even further, forecasting a future without any semblance of the human form: "The 20th century brought us the marvels of transplanting organs and changing sexes. The 21st century will bring us the marvels of transplanting minds and changing forms."

Rothblatt is talking about a future where we humans will merge with machines until we cease to exist.

While this might seem nutty and fantastical, it's a view echoed by other, more influential people, including Google engineer, inventor, and futurist Ray Kurzweil, who has written several books on technology and artificial intelligence. In *The Singularity Is Near: When Humans Transcend Biology*, Kurzweil claims that humans will soon be able to reverse-engineer the human brain, which would then make it possible to go beyond merging with machines. This would make it possible to upload the human brain into a "suitably powerful computational substrate" — into a machine. He believes this will enable humans to live forever, mistakenly conflating the contents of one's brain with the core of personhood.

Kurzweil is not a fringe character. He has given several TED talks; written five bestsellers, some of which have inspired movies; and spoken at MIT, Berkeley, and even the World Economic Forum (WEF), which has ties to the United Nations. Former WEF head Klaus Schwab has also predicted a future in which man and machine merge. The elites take transhumanism very seriously.

It appears transgenderism is not just a bizarre, nutty trend cooked up in the halls of academia and propagated on TikTok. It's a devilish attempt at and a steppingstone toward the destruction of humanity. As Rothblatt confirms, "transhumanism arises from the groins of transgenderism." It's no coincidence that the people who prescribe this ideology have no respect for what God has created. If they can convince us that gender — or, more correctly, sex — isn't important, they can convince us that humanity is not important.

What Hale did on March 27, 2023, at the Covenant Presbyterian Church and School was a microcosm of what the purveyors of transgenderism want to do to all humanity — destroy it. ■

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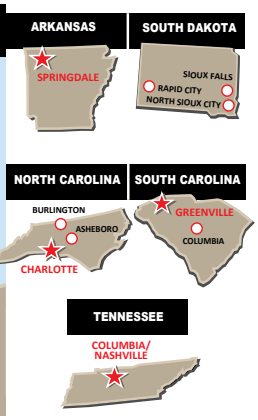

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God FAMILY COUNTRY

LANDMARK COVID LAWSUIT COULD ALTER HISTORY

by Rebecca Terrell

If you ask Scott Schara about his daughter, Grace, he won't mention at first that she died in a Covid hospital. His intro isn't the fact that he believes her life was sacrificed on the altar of Covid protocols for monetary gain. Nor will he immediately bring up the fact that he's waging a landmark lawsuit against the hospital system and healthcare practitioners that he believes singled Grace out because she had Down syndrome and was worth more to them dead than alive.

Instead, he would say, "Let me tell you about Grace," and you would see a smile spread across his face. "Grace was the best gift God ever gave us, second to salvation."

She was his "best buddy." He misses her hugs, her sense of humor, and her unconditional love. He'll tell you about how she played the violin, rode horses, and went hunting and fishing with him, and about the first time he taught her how to drive.

Those happy days ended in October 2021, shortly after her 19th birthday. Grace had tested positive for Covid, and her fingertip monitor showed her blood oxygen level had dropped to 88 percent. "So we took her to the hospital, and seven days later she was dead," he told *The New American*. (Details of the tragedy can be found in our April 25, 2022 cover story, "Covid Hospitals: The New Killing Fields?")

"Since then, I learned things that will impact the rest of my life," Scott says. Beforehand, he had "bought into the Covid narrative" and "trusted the white coat," but after watching what he says was the systematic abuse and murder of their daughter, he and his wife, Cindy, decided that Grace's death would not be in vain. They wanted to expose what happened to her to prevent the same misfortune from befalling others. "People need to be prepared," Scott reasons. "If you don't know what's going on, how can you be prepared?"

So they decided to sue, not for monetary gain, but to expose the truth.

It has been an uphill battle, and finding an attorney who would take a medical malpractice case was, itself, a minor miracle. Finally, on April 11, 2023, they filed suit against Ascension Hospital System; St. Elizabeth Hospital in Appleton, Wisconsin; five doctors; and two nurses. "We subsequently added a sixth doctor, but as we got closer to the trial date, we dropped five of those six." Their reason had to do with a legal principle called "proximate cause." They wanted to involve only those individuals who had an immediate and direct relationship with Grace's death.

"We want to send a message to the entire medical industrial complex that you will be held accountable for your choices," Scott explained in an April 2025 interview with *The New American*.

Naturally, the defendants have filed several motions to dismiss, but, incredibly, the judge has denied all of them. "On October 30, 2023, we got the green light to open up discovery," says Scott, referring to preparations such as interrogatories and depositions. The pre-trial, which decided how the jury trial would be organized and what testimony would be allowed, was May 19 and 20. Jury selection is scheduled to begin June 2.

The case involves four primary claims. The first is medical malpractice, which Scott notes is the third leading cause of death in America. "It's common, and it needs to end," he says.

In Grace's case, Scott says, she was denied medical advocacy, to which she was entitled under the Americans with Disabilities Act. At one point, an armed guard escorted Scott from the building because he challenged the hospital oxygen monitor, which was showing a false low reading as compared to the fingertip monitor he brought from home, and because he objected that they would not feed Grace. "We had to retain an attorney to get our daughter, Jessica, in to replace me, so Grace was without an advocate for 47 hours." During that time they restrained and sedated her; they later placed an unauthorized Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order on her chart. Finally, she received overdoses of sedatives and pain killers, and died as a result. As Grace slipped away, Jessica begged nurses to help, as did Scott and Cindy via a FaceTime call. But they refused, claiming the DNR prevented them.

"We had refused the standard Covid protocol of a ventilator, which would have meant big payouts under the PREP Act," explains Scott, referring to the federal Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act. Passed in 2005, it provides immunity from liability for those administering government-approved public health protocols. "The ventilator would have earned them a $39,000 bonus after the first 96 hours, courtesy of U.S. taxpayers," Scott says.

Instead, the hospital received a $13,000 death bonus for listing Covid-19 on Grace's death certificate.

"We would not have a lawsuit if we had given the pre-authorization for a ventilator," Scott notes, "because the ventilator was put in place as a cover for these murders under the PREP Act."

The second claim in the lawsuit is lack of informed consent. He explains this as when "they tell you some things but not the whole truth," and gives one example in relation to the feeding tube that the doctor ordered for Grace. (Scott says she could have eaten normally had the nurses not used her BiPAP mask as an excuse to prevent the family from helping her.) "When the doctor explained the feeding tube to us, he did not mention all the pros and cons and alternatives. So when we said yes, our decision was not properly informed."

As medical malpractice claims, the first two in the Schara case have a statutory cap of $750,000. However, it is the third and fourth claims that Scott believes have even more significant implications for others.

"The third claim is, I believe, most important because it is a common law battery claim that would take it outside of the state statute monetary caps," says Scott. "There can be punitive damages associated with that claim."

Unlike lack of informed consent, in the case of common law battery, "they don't tell you anything," Scott explains. "They just take over once you're in the hospital. And that's what happened to Grace. They didn't tell us about the DNR. They didn't tell us about the meds. They just did it. So it isn't a case of *lack* of consent; it's a complete lack of knowledge."

Finally, the fourth claim involves a declaratory judgment relative to the DNR order and the fatal combination of meds. This, says Scott, will influence future case law. "A doctor should not be able to put a DNR on a person unilaterally, no matter what." He notes that it is common practice for hospitals to include DNR and advanced-directive conditions in admission paperwork prior to surgeries. "They try to make you do these things, but you've got to push back against it. That's why we're focusing on the last two claims. They impact the rest of the country," he says.

Grace with her mom and dad

ouramazinggrace.net

The Scharas want their civil trial to open more people's eyes to the collusion of Big Brother and the medical establishment against we, the people. He observes, "After I started speaking out publicly about the illegal DNR, hundreds of people have approached me saying they experienced the same thing with loved ones." This bellwether case could set a precedent for future rulings should others follow suit. ■

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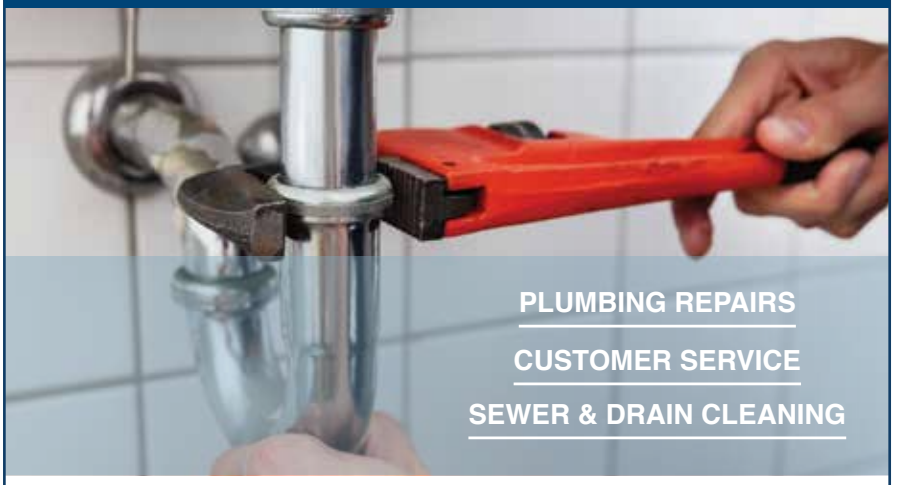

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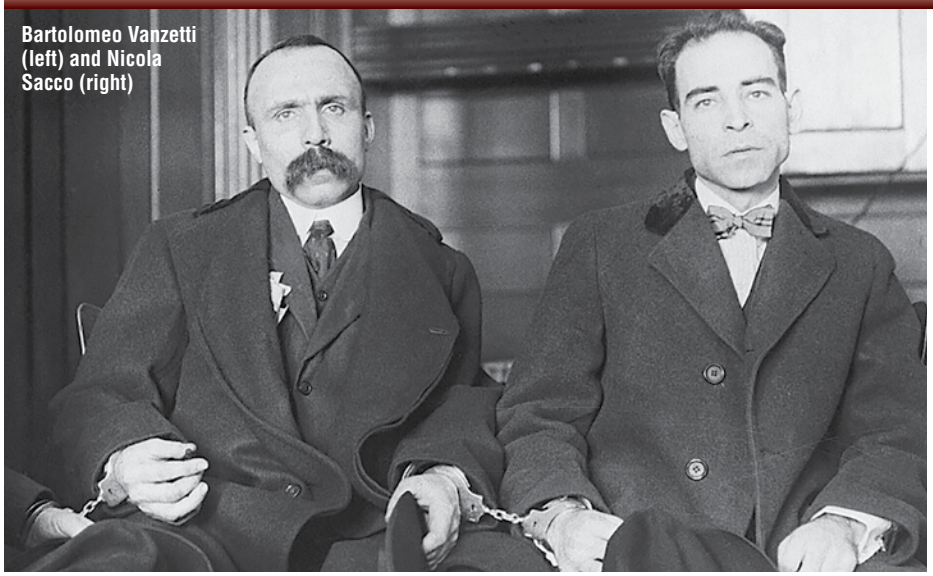

Bartolomeo Vanzetti (left) and Nicola Sacco (right)

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Anarchists on trial: Sacco and Vanzetti never denied their subversive activities. But they were not persecuted for their anarchist and atheist convictions; forensic evidence and eyewitness testimony connected them both to the scene of the crime and to the murder weapon.

Sacco and Vanzetti

The Left loves to glorify supposed victims of racism to advance their anti-American agenda. Before Abrego Garcia, there were Sacco and Vanzetti.

by Steve Bonta and William F. Jasper

In an era of seemingly endless social turmoil fomented by the radical Left — the wave of unrestrained immigration and resultant violent crime surge, coupled with constant violent street agitation and terroristic attacks perpetrated by the likes of Antifa and Black Lives Matter — it's easy to believe that America is plumbing new depths of depravity and revolutionary unrest. But a century ago, things were little different. While most of us are aware of the titanic convulsions of World War I and the Communist Revolution in Russia, most Americans are blissfully unaware that America in the teens and '20s of the last century was beset by violent unrest, including a years-long pageant of terrorist bombings and assassinations.

Steve Bonta is publisher of The New American. *William F. Jasper is a senior editor of* The New American.

Then, as now, the perpetrators took few pains to disguise their hatred of the United States and their desire for its violent overthrow. Then, as now, ordinary Americans were horrified by the epidemic of violence and hate. And just like today, America's urban elites — writers, journalists, politicians, and, above all, prominent lawyers and judges — openly sympathized with violent radicals and terrorists, exuding sympathy for even the most violent offenders, while ignoring the sensibilities of their victims. The same topsy-turvy elitist solicitude for victimizers over victims that has inflamed the American public in the age of Donald Trump and "Baltimore father" Kilmar Abrego Garcia was brought to bear for another media manufactured *cause célèbre*, the most polarizing news story of the Roaring Twenties: the trial and execution of Italian anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, known ever after simply as Sacco and Vanzetti.

By any measure, 1920 was a troubled year. With most of the world still recovering from the twin scourges of world war and the Spanish flu pandemic, the United States was comparatively well-off. Whereas Russia had fallen to the Bolsheviks, Germany's economy had collapsed into hyperinflation on a scale the world had never before witnessed, and communist and anarchist revolutionaries were fomenting violence across Central and Eastern Europe, America's economy and society were on a relatively sound footing. But all was not entirely well; for several years, spiraling terrorist attacks, mostly in the form of bombings, roiled America's cities. The perpetrators were what we would now call elements of the radical Left, especially anarchists and communists bent on sowing turmoil as prelude to violent revolution. All the way back in 1901, one of their number, American-born anarchist Leon Czolgosz, a friend and devotee of leading radical agitator Emma Goldman, succeeded in assassinating the president of the United States, William McKinley. Although Czolgosz himself did not escape swift justice (he was executed only seven months after his crime), neither anarchism nor Goldman suffered any lasting legal taint, and the program of unremitting violence continued over the next couple of decades.

The most prominent figure in the violent American anarchist underground of the day was an Italian immigrant named Luigi Galleani, who fled to the United States in 1901 to avoid prosecution for radical activities in his homeland. Unchastened by experience, Galleani soon became involved with anarchist agitation in the United States, and is suspected of involvement in a string of terrorist bombings, beginning in November 1917 with the bombing of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Police Department that killed nine policemen and a civilian. Notorious in its day, the bombing remained the single most lethal act against law enforcement in American history until September 11, 2001. Interestingly, the intended target

was a local evangelical church; the bomb detonated after being carried to the police station by a civilian. More than two months before the bombing, the church's minister, Augusto Giuliani, had held a rally protesting the activities of the Galleanist anarchists. Several of them showed up and attacked the rally, leading to a confrontation with police in which two Galleanists were shot and 11 more arrested. The November bombing was payback by the violent anarchists for their supposed persecution.

But the Milwaukee bombing was a pale prelude for what was to come. In 1919, from April through June America experienced an unprecedented wave of bombings directed at businessmen, politicians, and even churches. In April alone, more than 30 mail bombs were sent to the likes of Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer, Postmaster General Albert S. Burleson, the governors of Mississippi and Pennsylvania, the mayors of Seattle and New York City, various U.S. senators, and even John D. Rockefeller, among many others.

On June 2, the Galleanists, whose leader Galleani and various prominent associates were under arrest for subversive activities, carried out an al-Qaeda-style series of nearly simultaneous bombings targeting a Catholic church, judges, and, for a second time, Attorney General Palmer, who was to lead the so-called Palmer Raids during the "Red Scare" era that followed. The June bombings appear to have been the final straw for the beleaguered federal government, which deported Galleani back to Italy a few weeks later.

Although Galleani himself was gone, his fanatical anarchist followers remained as determined as ever to wreak havoc. Two such were Italian immigrants Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti.

On April 15, 1920, Sacco and Vanzetti robbed a shoe-manufacturing company in Braintree, Massachusetts. During the course of the robbery, they gunned down Frederick Parmenter, a paymaster, and Alessandro Berardelli, a security guard.

Within days, the investigation led police to known anarchist Mario Buda, whose car appeared to have been used by the murderers, and to two close associates of his, Sacco and Vanzetti. After they found Sacco in possession of a .32 pistol whose ballistics matched the murder weapon, and Vanzetti carrying a .38 revolver similar to the service weapon stolen from Berardelli, the two killers were arrested and, on September 14, indicted for murder.

Buda, however, evaded arrest and disappeared, plotting mayhem in reprisal for the arrests of Sacco and Vanzetti. Two days after the indictment of the already-notorious duo, on September 16, a lone man drove a horse-drawn wagon down Wall Street at precisely midday, and parked it outside J.P Morgan & Co. Bank in the heart of New York's financial district. The wagoner, described by witnesses as a short, swarthy man, jumped from the wagon and ran off. A minute later, 100 pounds of dynamite along with 500 pounds of weights used as shrapnel blew the wagon and unfortunate horse to smithereens, killing 40 innocent bystanders and leaving Wall Street strewn with mutilated bodies and severed limbs. The Wall Street bomb, the worst terrorist attack the United States had ever experienced, left the country enraged and in shock. Instead of killing wicked capitalists, the bomb had mostly killed young men and women who worked as clerks, stenographers, and brokers, and who were on their lunch breaks. The captains of industry themselves were in their suites and offices, as was their custom, while J.P. Morgan himself was in Europe on business.

While the perpetrators of the heinous act were never identified, Buda appears to have left the United States for Italy only days later, and was never brought to justice. And despite all the violence, American elites, then as now, closed ranks around the radical-Left anarchists and communists, and adopted Sacco and Vanzetti as their *cause célèbre*. The Galleanists being the Antifa of their day, their leftist champions in the media rushed to the defense of the "oppressed" immigrants Sacco and Vanzetti, with not a thought of concern for their murdered victims (nor for the victims of the Wall Street bombing or the many other acts of terror perpetrated by the Galleanists). Thus began a series of delays and appeals that dragged on for seven years.

Public Domain

Final boss: Luigi Galleani was the most notorious leader of the anarchist underground in America in the early 20th century — and Sacco and Vanzetti were two of his most dedicated followers.

Sacco and Vanzetti went on trial in 1921, but they had already raised an enormous amount of money thanks to the efforts of their fellow anarchists, not only for their legal defense but also for exerting public pressure on the prosecution in one of America's very first deliberately politicized celebrity trials. The Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee, set up only days after their arrest, ended up raising more than $300,000, a colossal amount of money in the 1920s. The Defense Committee managed to land favorable coverage in both *The New Republic* and *The Boston Globe*, and even attracted the sympathy of writer John Dos Passos.

The verdict, after a six-week trial, found both men guilty of murder. Sacco and Vanzetti were sentenced to death. There ensued years of appeals, recriminations, public pressure, and intermittent mob action, as the two anarchists began burnishing their images from jail as hapless victims of anti-Ital-

ian sentiment and prejudice against their radical politics.

It wasn't until 1925, five years after the murders, that Sacco and Vanzetti were sensationalized worldwide as alleged victims of vicious American capitalism and racial discrimination. This was accomplished after Stalin's Comintern (Communist International) assigned to its chief propaganda maestro, Willi Munzenberg, the task of transforming them into heroes of international socialism. The Comintern had the advantage of having communist parties and a network of front groups, fellow travelers, publications, and friendly journalists in virtually every major city of every country in the world. The communists also had the benefit of a network of communist and pro-communist attorneys working through the Moscow-directed International Red Aid.

Operating out of Berlin, Munzenberg orchestrated a global campaign to portray the guilty murderers as innocent martyrs. Why? It was clear from the actions and statements of some of the communist leaders that they knew the pair was guilty and really didn't want to see them acquitted, pardoned, or reprieved. One of their champions, the liberal journalist/poet/novelist Katherine Anne Porter, recorded a chilling conversation she had with Comintern agent Rosa Baron, who was Porter's "group leader" during the Sacco-Vanzetti death watch. Porter commented that she hoped the duo could be saved. "Saved?" Baron responded coldly. "Who wants them saved? What earthly good would they do us alive?"

The whole point of the "Save Sacco and Vanzetti" ruse was to condemn the alleged systemic "racism," "xenophobia," "class oppression," and "rampant injustice" of the United States of America. The idea and image of America as the land of opportunity and freedom had to be destroyed if the communist revolution, which was then only a few years old in Russia, were to survive and thrive. So, Sacco-Vanzetti protests and rallies erupted "spontaneously" in London, Paris, Tokyo, Amsterdam, Stockholm, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Geneva, Johannesburg, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, and dozens of other cities. Riots frequently ensued, with some turning deadly.

In testament to the power of the Sacco and Vanzetti propaganda campaign, a veritable Who's Who of 1920s celebrities advocated for a new trial, or for the outright pardon of the two men, including Albert Einstein, Edna St. Vincent Millay, George Bernard Shaw, H.G. Wells, and Dorothy Parker.

Library of Congress

Panic in the streets: The still-unsolved Wall Street bombing in September 1920 was almost certainly perpetrated by anarchists. The explosion ended up killing 40 people and injuring hundreds of others. It was probably meant as a reprisal for the arrest and indictment of Sacco and Vanzetti.

In the end, the radical Left-orchestrated outcry came to naught, with Sacco and Vanzetti finally executed in the electric chair at midnight on August 23, 1927 — exactly seven days after a terrorist bombing at the house of one of the jurors who had convicted the duo six years earlier. The two men, avowed atheists, refused several offers of last rites from a priest.

Nor did the radical Left abandon their cause after the executions were carried out. For decades afterward, Sacco and Vanzetti occupied the most conspicuous chapter in the martyrology of the Left, with Massachusetts governor Michael Dukakis proclaiming a half century later, in 1977, in a document that stopped short of a full pardon, that "any disgrace should be forever removed from their names." Memorials to Sacco and Vanzetti abound in Massachusetts, while many places in the former Soviet Union bear their names. They have been hymned and lauded in numerous popular songs, as well as in a novel, *Boston*, by Upton Sinclair. And all of this, and more, on behalf of a pair of murdering thugs acting at the behest of the revolutionary Left.

This formula of lionizing and martyrizing vicious criminals has been used over and over again by the same forces, the same organizations, and the same never-ending stream of the radical Left's "useful idiots." So we have seen, in the decades since, repeated communist-led campaigns cloning the useful attributes of the "Save Sacco and Vanzetti" cause: "Save the Rosenbergs," "Save Mumia Abu-Jamal," "Free Angela Davis," "Free Assata Shakur," "Free Leonard Peltier," "Free the Chicago 7," "Free the Miami 5," "Free Nelson Mandela," "Remember George Floyd," and many more. And now comes the very latest, and no less an affront to decency and human intelligence than its predecessors: "Free Abrego Garcia."

But it was the scripted Sacco-Vanzetti campaign that provided the template and the inspiration. One hundred years later, the anarchist murderers are still being presented to new generations as glorious martyrs. Dozens of books lionizing the pair are available. Like the images of Che Guevara, Ho Chi Minh, and Nelson Mandela that festoon the T-shirts and hoodies of wannabe campus revolutionaries, representations of Sacco and Vanzetti also adorn radical chic wardrobes and décor depart-

AP Images

Demonstrating displeasure: One of many demonstrations on behalf of Sacco and Vanzetti. After seven years of legal wrangling and political pressure, the two men were finally executed in 1927 — thereby becoming two of the radical Left's most celebrated martyrs.

ments. In 1971, an award-winning film with a beautiful musical score by Ennio Morricone immortalized them cinematically. Communist historian Howard Zinn, whose *A People's History of the United States* is taught in thousands of American classrooms, declared: "The case of Sacco and Vanzetti revealed, in its starkest terms, that the noble words inscribed above our courthouses, 'Equal Justice Before the Law,' have always been a lie." Naturally, Zinn proceeds to condemn America in his typical vituperative fashion.

Contrary to Zinn's bald-faced lie, the truth about "the case of Sacco and Vanzetti" shows that in this imperfect world the two miscreants received a fair hearing and better justice than they deserved. In fact, they received a far better shake than did Munzenberg, Otto Katz, and other Comintern agents who faced arrest, torture, and execution during Stalin's Great Purge trials a few years later. They and thousands of communists like them undoubtedly would have loved to have had access to the American system of justice they had previously condemned.

The communist lie machine has largely succeeded, thanks to a million repetitions. But against the mountain of lies that has been constructed about this pair of criminals, there remains a wellspring of truth: *Sacco-Vanzetti: The Murder and the Myth* by Robert H. Montgomery. Montgomery was an eminent Boston attorney (Harvard Law School, 1912, cum laude) who followed the case closely as it unfolded and meticulously researched all aspects of it for years thereafter. The book was first published in 1960 by Devin-Adair Publishing Company. After that edition went out of print, it was published in a pocket paperback edition by Western Islands, an imprint of The John Birch Society, which gave the book much wider circulation. If you want to know the truth about Sacco and Vanzetti and to be forearmed to understand the present case of Abrego Garcia (and similar future cases that are sure to arise), this is the place to start.

In addition, decades after Montgomery's book came out, more documents released from the Comintern archives confirmed the crucial involvement of Stalin's agents and dupes in pushing the whole Sacco-Vanzetti narrative. Two important books that have made use of these more recent documents and are especially relevant in this respect are *Double Lives: Stalin, Willi Munzenberg and the Seduction of the Intellectuals* by Stephen Koch and *The Red Millionaire: A Political Biography of Willy Münzenberg, Moscow's Secret Propaganda Tsar in the West, 1917-1940* by Sean McMeekin. Moreover, among the many important interviews conducted by Koch are those with Munzenberg's widow and fellow Comintern agent, Babette Gross. Gross's sister, Margarete Buber-Neumann, a famous author, was also a communist, and was married to the Comintern representative in Germany, Heinz Neumann. Margarete survived the Soviet gulag and the Nazi concentration camps. Their grim experiences caused both Babette and Margarete to become staunch anti-communists.

But the Orwellian memory hole is deep. Under the Wikipedia entry for Sacco and Vanzetti, the only mention regarding the communist involvement in the propaganda extravaganza is a backhanded attempt to discredit the whole idea. According to Wikipedia, "It has been alleged that some of these activities were organized by the Communist Party." Alleged? It was shouted on the front pages of *The Daily Worker*, *New Masses*, and every other Comintern-directed communist publication. Former communists and Comintern agents such as Eugene Lyons, Maurice Malkin, and Benjamin Gitlow, as well as the Comintern archives, have confirmed in spades the extensive Soviet direction of the operation. But does Wikipedia mention any of this? Of course not. Does it mention the well-researched Munzenberg books by Koch and McMeekin noted above? Wikipedia, unfortunately, is a notorious abyss of deceit, censorship, left-wing bias, and disinformation, as Larry Sanger, Wikipedia's co-founder and now uber-critic, has repeatedly exposed. And Wikipedia is only the tip of the iceberg in the Orwellian mind prison we are being herded into.

The final verdict on Sacco and Vanzetti, however, was delivered by science in October 1961, when new ballistics tests confirmed that the bullet that killed Berardelli was fired from Sacco's pistol. But facts have never been an impediment to the radical Left in their martyrological narratives. Even now, Sacco and Vanzetti's star in the leftist firmament remains undimmed, a lasting testament to the Left's incurable passion for narrative and propaganda over simple truth. ■

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Veterans Deserve Their Rights: Exposing the VA's Assault on the Second Amendment

by Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

America's veterans — those brave men and women who risked their lives to defend our liberties — deserve more than hollow words of gratitude. They deserve their rights. Yet, for far too long, a pernicious policy within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has unjustly stripped veterans of their Second Amendment-protected rights without due process.

The problem is shockingly straightforward. Bureaucrats within the VA have been submitting the names of veterans who need a fiduciary — someone to assist them in managing their finances — to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Once their names are on this list, they are considered prohibited individuals, and are deprived of their right to purchase or possess a firearm.

The most outrageous part? This happens without any judicial hearing, and without any determination that these veterans pose a danger to themselves or others. In other words, they are presumed guilty and stripped of their rights simply for needing help managing their finances.

This practice is not only unjust; it is a slap in the face to those who served. For years, veterans have expressed their frustration and fear, choosing to forgo VA care altogether rather than risk losing their gun rights. This is not only unacceptable; it is a direct violation of the principles these veterans fought to defend.

Thankfully, Congress is finally taking steps to right this wrong. The U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs recently held a bill mark-up hearing to discuss H.R. 1041, the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act. This bill aims to end the VA's arbitrary and unconstitutional practice of automatically sending veterans' names to NICS simply because they have a fiduciary.

Chairman Mike Bost (R-Ill.), a Marine Corps veteran himself, is leading the charge. He knows firsthand the struggles veterans face, and he understands the critical importance of protecting their constitutional rights.

During the hearing, Bost put it plainly: "Unless a judge or court first decides that a veteran could be a danger to themselves or others, VA will sometimes appoint a fiduciary for a veteran to help them manage their VA financial benefits.... That appointment of a fiduciary has nothing to do with a veteran being a danger to themselves or others. Yet, as soon as a veteran gets a fiduciary, a bureaucrat automatically sends the veteran's name to the NICS list. No due process exists. None."

Support for the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act is growing. The bill has 50 co-sponsors in the House, and several veteran advocacy groups — including the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Disabled American Veterans, and American Legion — have publicly supported fixing this shameful policy.

Nancy Springer, associate director for national legislative services at VFW, didn't mince words when testifying before Congress: "Because of the somewhat subjective VA incompetency determination process and related loss of Second Amendment rights, some veterans refuse to use VA health care for fear of inadvertently making a disqualifying statement or disclosing a temporary disabling condition that could lead to NICS referral. This stigma unnecessarily deprives veterans of their earned benefits and could compromise their physical and mental health."

In an even more poignant statement, the American Legion expressed its profound frustration: "It is both sad and ironic that the veterans' community, a community in which each and every member swore to uphold the Constitution of the United States — including the Second Amendment — requires advocacy to maintain their constitutional right to bear arms."

It is outrageous that veterans, of all people, should face such an unconstitutional predicament. This legislation should not be controversial. The Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act doesn't grant new rights — it simply restores the fundamental rights veterans have always had.

The bill made it out of the Veterans' Affairs Committee with a narrow 13-11 vote, but the fight is far from over. With a pro-Second Amendment majority in both chambers of Congress and the support of President Donald Trump, the chances for passage are good. Yet, Americans must remain vigilant and hold lawmakers accountable to ensure that this bill becomes law.

Senator John Kennedy (R-La.) is championing the cause in the Senate with a companion bill, and with 15 co-sponsors already on board, momentum is building. However, pressure from the public will be key to pushing this legislation across the finish line.

The Firearm Industry Trade Association has praised Chairman Bost's leadership, but praise alone will not pass this bill. Americans must raise their voices in support of the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act.

Veterans served to protect our freedom. It's time we fought just as hard to protect theirs. Contact your representatives. Demand they vote to pass H.R. 1041. Stand with our veterans — because they've always stood for us. ■

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THE REVIEW

Mobsters and Political Leaders

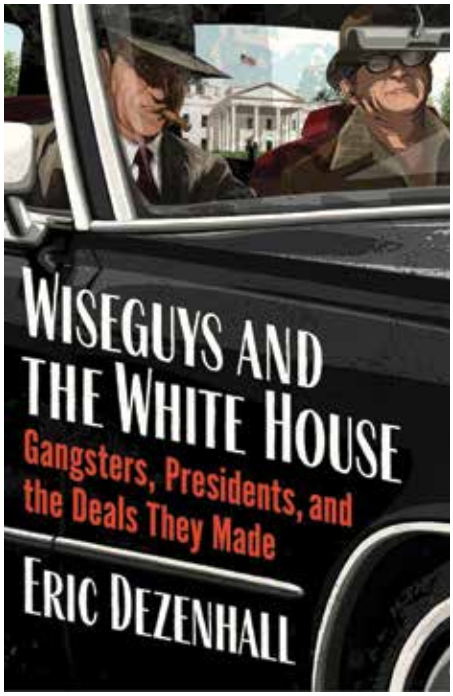
by William P. Hoar

***Wiseguys and the White House: Gangsters, Presidents, and the Deals They Made*,** by Eric Dezenhall, New York: Harper, 2025, 368 pages, hardcover.

Wiseguys and the White House: Gangsters, Presidents, and the Deals They Made explores how certain felonious men take up crime, while others find legal ways to be dishonest. They occasionally work together, and there are eventual winners and losers. The son of a La Cosa Nostra founder, quoted near the end of this volume, acknowledges that "a small group of men, operating in secret, not only were able to survive, but also to thrive." As he put it: "The Mafia for a long time was part of the power structure of the country itself. Any history of the United States from 1930 on that doesn't take that into account will be a false history."

This is not fictitious. Some of the illicit players may favor submachine guns, while many licit ones tend to shoot from the lip.

Author Eric Dezenhall, who acknowledges that he has been collecting stories about organized crime for much of his life, fittingly kicks off his tale right inside the White House. He recalls that when he was a young aide during the Reagan administration, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, popped up in the national news. That was, as he acknowledged to his co-workers, his hometown, and it was indeed a Mafia stronghold, being the headquarters of the "Cherry Hill Gambinos."



Readers learn that the HQ was down the street from his high school and just a five-minute walk from his home. While some of this captivating account is personal, that is a small percentage — with a larger, more stimulating, part being about the crooked paths taken by hoodlums that would lead many to graveyards or penitentiaries.

And, at the heart of the book, as the author says, is how mobsters used American leaders and how presidents and their proxies operated with the gangsters. In short, he emphasizes, it is "a study of organized crime in presidencies and presidential pursuits." And he even keeps score, as we see after the writer completes his chronicles, while stressing that these are not overall analyses of those presidential terms.

Dezenhall is the author of a dozen fiction and nonfiction books, including *Best of Enemies: The Last Great Spy Story of the Cold War* (with Gus Russo), and founded one of the country's first crisis-management firms.

Underworld, Oval Office

The presidents covered, with individual chapters varying considerably in length, follow: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy (with enough on Robert F. Kennedy that the chapter could have been called "The Kennedy brothers"), Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, Donald Trump, and (relatively briefly) Joe Biden.

Sprinkled with dozens of black-and-white photographs that help set the scenes, the volume has a serviceable index and a select bibliography. However, the occasional footnotes are asides by the author, not directed at specific sources — leaving

some researchers up in the air. Some folks really do want to know (or identify those who allege to know) who put whom on the meat hook.

Curious readers, and this reviewer, undoubtedly also wonder about omissions or presidents whose coverage is skimpy. Dezenhall does address that fleetingly, drawing apparent distinctions about "organized crime," such as La Costa Nostra (LCN, as usually abbreviated in this book). As he writes, "When it comes to presidents and crime, much has been made of alleged criminal mischief associated with Bill and Hillary Clinton in Arkansas, not to mention Hunter Biden's legal troubles." Those were, in his view, "rabbit holes I chose not to go down." Is this a distinction between the major crime leagues and the minor leagues? Or those with different accents? Or those from foreign organizations? (There are, on the other hand, short mentions of the "Whiskey Ring" during Ulysses Grant's second term, for example, and the "Ohio Gang" that surrounded President Warren Harding.)

For those willing to go down certain rabbit holes, *The Secret Life of Bill Clinton* (1997) by Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, for one, offers a map that the Clintons would prefer to keep under wraps. It details Bill Clinton's misuse of the judicial apparatus while governor of Arkansas and to this day as an "instrument in Washington." "Sending people to prison on false charges — or trying to do so — is his specialty," Evans-Pritchard wrote. That book includes chapters about, among other things, drug trafficking and "The Dixie Mafia."

For more on the Biden crime family, there's plenty to find. Among more recent book-length treatments are *Laptop from Hell* and *The Big Guy*, both by Miranda Devine, and *Blood Money* by Peter Schweizer — with the latter two being reviewed previously in these pages.

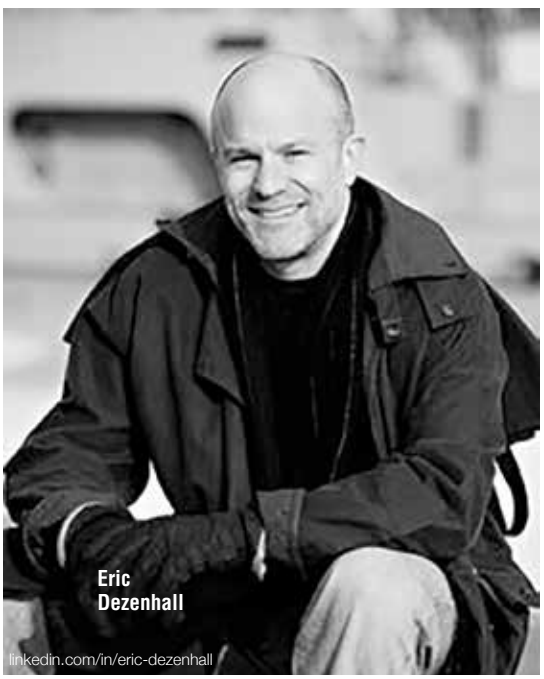
FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover does come into a bit of criticism, some deserved, in *Wiseguys*. The book includes a reproduction — from the agency's official records — of a Hoover handwritten note regretting not taking the Mafia more seriously. The threat of Communism and espionage were assuredly major concerns at the time.

The interactions of various crime families and names such as the "Chicago Outfit" may confuse some readers, though the author does what he can to show the links. As he puts it:

> Technically, Hoover hadn't been wrong to see organized crime as a local phenomenon. There were twenty-four local mobs. Gangsters like this model because had they been perceived as a national enterprise, they would have become attractive to the feds, and the last thing they wanted was to be interesting. When LCN oozed onto the national radar, bosses admonished their hoods not to cross state lines or perform bank robberies, a federal crime, because they hadn't wanted to awaken Washington.

As it is, Dezenhall has plenty to cover and, as mentioned above, there is even a scoreboard deep into these pages. We won't give up the game and tell you the final score. But here's a hint about the schtick he constructs and scale of scoring of the various presidents. The top (or worst) gets a "5" — being described as "Wouldn't have been president without mob." On the other end is "1," representing "tangential mob links at best."

So, no big spoiler here. However, if we did rat out the final scores, we imagine that a president sometimes called "HST" might not be delighted about how he is depicted. (Maybe such a president would prefer the description made by humorist Dave Barry — not taken from this book — who has written of him, "Harry S Truman, a feisty, plucky native of Missouri … grew up so poor that his family could not afford to put a period after his middle initial.") We get to see the younger Truman in *Wiseguys and the White House* (employing the word "feisty," as it happens), as well as in later years. Dezenhall quotes him quite a bit, though this one line, rather famous at one point, is not included: "My choice early in life was either to be a piano player in a wh*rehouse or a politician. And to tell the truth, there's hardly any difference."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Rage for the Pendergast Machine

Dezenhall's evidence on Truman might be surprising to some if they have only read whitewashed history. His reputation has been up and down several times over the years. In 2016, for instance, the Presidential History Network's survey had Truman among the top 10 U.S. presidents. But Americans who knew him best saw it decidedly differently. Various historical sources, as his popularity fell in 1946 and 1947, are replete with lines of that period such as: "To err is Truman"; "What would Truman do if he were alive?"; and "Don't shoot our piano player; he's doing the best he can."

Lines of that ilk are similarly mentioned in Dezenhall's book — especially in connection to Tom Pendergast, whom Truman referred to as the "Big Boss." Pendergast ran the Kansas City political machine and helped Truman get elected to several political posts, including his U.S. Senate seat in 1934, which led some to label Truman "the senator from Pendergast." This reviewer also had a chapter on Truman in his book *Architects of Conspiracy* (1984), which covered more than HST's early days. Over the years, as we wrote, Truman repeatedly claimed, "Tom Pendergast never asked me to do a dishonest thing."

But, as we said then, "old Tom never *asked* his kept politicians to do a thing — he *told* them what to do. Tom had to do that to run the only

open city between Houston and Chicago, where gangsters walked the streets without fear and gambling and prostitution were protected industries."

Dezenhall clearly is trying to be evenhanded, but the subject is not pretty. Try as they might to disguise the past, even the most affectionate authors have been forced to acknowledge that Truman's career was "rooted in Kansas City's all-powerful Pendergast machine." That said, the friendly biographers, he writes,

> have been less inclined to explore how tightly linked the machine was to La Cosa Nostra. Pendergast was the "ruling spirit" behind organized crime in that city — and organized crime was booming with illegal gambling, bootlegging, prostitution, labor racketeering, and even narcotics. Pendergast's cops even protected Pendergast's rackets.

Harry S. Truman
AP Images

The outlook years later was also dire. Senator Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.) held hearings in 14 major cities, which drew huge television audiences. The book depicts one of the charts used by Kefauver to diagram the Kansas City LCN. Perhaps because of this, Truman lost the 1952 New Hampshire Democratic presidential primary to Kefauver and, with his popularity having fallen to a low of 22 percent, dropped out of the race. The Democratic ticket that year (Adlai Stevenson-Kefauver) was defeated by the Eisenhower-Nixon Republican ticket.

Scoring Mob Relevance Over Time

As you might expect, there's much to discuss in this book relating to the Kennedys and organized crime. Much of the most damning information became public after the shooting of John F. Kennedy. This book was written before the recent release of declassified files on alleged CIA involvement in the murder of President Kennedy, but it does go into the assassination plots against Cuban dictator Fidel Castro.

Readers are also reminded of "party girl" Judith Campbell Exner — who was the "girlfriend" of both JFK and Chicago Outfit boss Sam Giancana (having been introduced to both by Frank Sinatra on separate occasions in Las Vegas in 1960). What happened in Vegas stayed there for a while, but now is a footnote in history. Following his strong chapter on JFK (and family members), Dezenhall summarizes how the candidate "benefited from racketeers' involvement in his presidential career; his father sought it, and he and his brother either knew or should have known." How much mob influence was involved in the 1960 election, the author says, is "rightly a subject for debate," but he insists that there is "little question that Joe Kennedy pursued and received help."

Dezenhall maintains that the details might not have been known by the brothers, even though he comments that "they *chose* not to learn." The brothers also, he writes, "knew that gangsters had been involved in the Castro assassination plots."

Republican presidents don't escape examination. We are reminded, for example, about Richard Nixon commuting the sentence of Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa "at the behest of his mob-connected successor." Yet (somewhat similar to Bobby Kennedy in this regard), Nixon both cozied up to mob-connected characters and prosecuted them. Also noted in *Wiseguys* are Nixon's ties with mobster Meyer Lansky, even as there is substantiation that Lansky also contributed to many Democratic presidential campaigns, including FDR (1932), Truman (1948), LBJ (1960, 1964), and Hubert Humphrey (1968).

The author doesn't ignore his former boss Ronald Reagan, though the worst he comes up with is to show how the actor's career was resurrected via his relationship with his talent agent Lew Wasserman and MCA (the onetime Music Corporation of America), which, he writes, "had multiple gangland links that allowed the company to prosper." The mob, concludes Dezenhall, "did not play a direct or decisive role in the events that allowed Reagan to advance."

The Trump chapter may not thrill devout fans, but it isn't a hit piece by any stretch. Trump, as most honest observers probably agree, has always (in the author's words) "wanted to have things both ways — tough guy 'street cred' and Wall Street respectability." The late lawyer Roy Cohn, who also represented New York Cosa Nostra families years ago, is called Trump's intermediary with mobsters, providing Trump "with a layer of legal cover." Also mentioned are construction and gambling cartels. Summarizing, the author says that the contacts and transactions "didn't materially translate to his presidency."

Whether the overall story — or succession of chronicles — has a happy ending may depend on your point of view. The author contends that politicians and "legit" moguls eventually outplayed the mob, arguing that the "feds won." The powers-that-be in Washington — as part of the evidence offered by Dezenhall — were helped in getting the upper hand through the passage of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act in 1970 and the Witness Security Program (also in 1970), protecting "those who testified against organized crime."

It may be comforting to think that the crooked were beaten by the upright, or that organized crime was defeated by those in the capital, which is (in Ambrose Bierce's phrase) "the seat of misgovernment." Or, perhaps, what we are seeing is the impact of capital punishment, which means (in a Czech proverb that is apt in many languages): The big thieves hang the little ones. ■

THE LAST WORD

Time to Get Out of the WTO

by Peter Rykowski

HJBC/Adobe Stock

In a long-overdue step toward reasserting American independence, Congress has introduced legislation to withdraw the United States from the World Trade Organization (WTO).

House Joint Resolution 93 (H. J. Res. 93), titled "Withdrawing approval of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization," has been introduced by U.S. Representative Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.). It is co-sponsored by Representatives Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.), Thomas Massie (R-Ky.), Barry Moore (R-Ala.), Scott Perry (R-Pa.), and Tony Wied (R-Wis.).

This one-page resolution declares, "Congress withdraws its approval, provided under section 101(a) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, of the WTO Agreement as defined in section 2(9) of that Act." The Uruguay Round Agreements Act, enacted by Congress in 1994, established U.S. membership in the WTO, which was formally established on January 1, 1995. Accordingly, H. J. Res. 93 would fully withdraw the United States from the WTO.

In a press release announcing H. J. Res. 93, Tiffany declared, "The WTO has repeatedly overlooked China's unfair trade practices and human rights abuses, undermined American farmers and manufacturers, and eroded our national sovereignty. American trade policies should be made by American officials who are elected by American voters and accountable to American workers, not dictated by unelected international bureaucrats in Geneva."

He continued, "It has been two decades since Congress last voted on whether to continue our membership in this deeply flawed organization. The American people deserve to know if their elected officials stand with them, or with China's allies in the WTO."

This is not the first time legislation to withdraw the United States from the WTO has been introduced. In 2020, for example, Senator Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) and Representative Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) introduced identical resolutions (S. J. Res. 71 and H. J. Res. 89). As *The New American* reported at the time, Hawley also published a *New York Times* op-ed calling for the WTO to be abolished.

WTO membership has been detrimental to U.S. sovereignty. The global body explains on its website, "Although the WTO is not a UN specialized agency, it has maintained strong relations with the UN and its agencies since its establishment."

The WTO has repeatedly ruled against U.S. policies, even occasionally forcing Congress and state legislatures to bend to its will. In 2015, for example, Congress repealed a country-of-origin-labeling law for foreign meat in response to multiple WTO rulings — siding with Canada and Mexico, which sued the United States — declaring the law illegal under WTO rules. Additionally, in 2018, the Washington Legislature repealed a state tax break for Boeing to comply with WTO rules. In essence, U.S. membership in the WTO has effectively given international bureaucrats control over federal and state laws related — even if tangentially — to trade.

H. J. Res. 93 is only the latest measure introduced in the 119th Congress to restore American independence. Representative Chip Roy (R-Texas) and Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) previously introduced H.R. 1498 and S. 669, titled the Disengaging Entirely From the United Nations Debacle (DEFUND) Act, to fully withdraw the United States from the UN and its related organizations. And Representative Biggs introduced H.R. 54, to permanently cut U.S. ties with the World Health Organization.

Rather than allow foreign bureaucrats to dictate our policies and undermine our independence, Congress should defend America's founding principles and restore U.S. sovereignty by enacting the legislation listed above, including H. J. Res. 93 — and patriotic Americans should work to create the educated and activated electorate necessary for effecting long-term change. ■

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